

HOW DO YOU LOVE YOUR ENEMIES?

The Sufficiency Of God #3 Noah Largent 10/7/18



Jonah 4:1-11 This displeased Jonah terribly and he became very angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “Oh, Lord, this is just what I thought would happen when I was in my own country. This is what I tried to prevent by attempting to escape to Tarshish!—because I knew that you are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in mercy, and one who relents concerning threatened judgment. ³ So now, Lord, kill me instead, because I would rather die than live!” ⁴ The Lord said, “Are you really so very angry?” ⁵ Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. He made a shelter for himself there and sat down under it in the shade to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ The Lord God appointed a little plant and caused it to grow up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to rescue him from his misery. Now Jonah was very delighted about the little plant. ⁷ So God sent a worm at dawn the next day, and it attacked the little plant so that it dried up. ⁸ When the sun began to shine, God sent a hot east wind. So the sun beat down on Jonah’s head, and he grew faint. So he despaired of life, and said, “I would rather die than live!” ⁹ God said to Jonah, “Are you really so very angry about the little plant?” And he said, “I am as angry as I could possibly be!” ¹⁰ The Lord said, “You were upset about this little plant, something for which you have not worked nor did you do anything to make it grow. It grew up overnight and died the next day. ¹¹ Should I not be even more concerned about Nineveh, this enormous city? There are more than one hundred twenty thousand people in it who do not know right from wrong, as well as many animals!”

Notice that ***Jonah is as lost as the Nineties***. Jonah is more concerned with others rebellion than his own.

Because forgiveness is given to us as a gift, forgiving others and loving our enemies happens in our life not thorough our own effort. The ability to extend to others God’s compassion and love comes from ***a heart that is being transformed by the knowledge and appreciation for the grace and compassion that God has for you***. The more you come to rest in the love God has for you and what He has done for you, the more compassion and grace will flow out of your life.

-Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

-1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

This story raise questions that we should all ask ourselves:

When things do not go as I wish in life, do I find myself irrationally blaming God for not making my concerns his?

Do I find myself more concerned about others sin than my own?

Does my love and forgiveness for others flow from the appreciation I have for the compassion and grace God has given me?

Notes:
