

Recap

Historical narrative

- Jonah arrives in Nineveh and preaches - 40 more days and Nineveh will be overthrown

- People believe God and repent
  - Fast/put on sackcloth
  - Cry out to God for mercy
  - Give up their evil ways

- God relents – decides not to overthrow city



Recap

Theological truth

- God loves Jonah's enemies –
  - Can we begin to see the 'hard to loves' way God does?

- God uses Jonah in story He is writing in lives of Ninevites –
  - Can we see providential hand of God in lives of others and make ourselves available for His use?



Jonah's prayer

- **Positives**
  - Honest – doesn't hold back
  - Knows God's character and believes God will act according to that character
  - Believes God will be merciful to Nineveh if they repent

- **Negatives**
  - Petty, selfish, hypocritical
  - Demonstrates how far Jonah's heart is from heart of God and
  - Demonstrates depth of Jonah's unwillingness to be moved in the direction of God's heart





STONEBRIDGE
CHURCH





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CHURCH



Character of God

- Gracious – describes heartfelt response from someone who has something to give to an undeserving person in need

- Compassionate – refers to a deep, tender love rooted in God's relationship with His people, often expressed as mercy (withholding deserved punishment)
  - Relents from calamity – decides to not send destruction

- Slow to anger – longsuffering

- Abounding in love (hesed) – commitment to well-being of another even at personal cost

- See Ex 34.6-7; Joel 2.13; Neh 9.17; Ps 86.15, 103.8, 145.8



Jonah's Anger

- Rooted in displeasure at God:
  - Delivering Nineveh
  - Destroying the plant
  - God not behaving as Jonah would want

- Ideally – Jonah doesn't get angry at God for being God

- Next best – Jonah does get angry with God for not acting like Jonah wants, but:
  - when confronted acknowledges that isn't good
  - Repents/prays something like, 'make me more like You'

- Worst – what we see
  - Jonah settles into his anger at God and feels good about it



Jonah's Anger

- Underlying issue
  - Jonah's pity is directed towards the wrong object (plant vs Nineveh)

- Ultimate issue
  - Jonah's unwillingness to align himself with the Lord's:
    - Priorities – delivering Nineveh
    - Motivations - compassion

- Rather than being conformed into the image of the Lord, Jonah is angry that the Lord doesn't look more like him