

# WE ARE JONAH

SHARING GOD'S HEART FOR PEOPLE

THE BOOK OF JONAH  
Part 5 – Seeing Others As God Sees Them  
Jonah 4

Pastor Mark Hartman  
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*Jonah 4:1 “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was **angry**.”*

*Jonah 4:1-3 But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became **angry**.<sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD and said, “Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.”<sup>3</sup> “Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.” (NASB)*

## I. THE PERSON **INSIDE** OF JONAH

A. Jonah **rebelled** because God is too loving, too gracious and too forgiving.

B. Jonah wanted all of that wonderful forgiveness for the his people and for himself but he didn’t want it for his **enemies**.

- C. Luke 6:27-28; 35 *"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>35</sup>...Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. (NIV)*
- D. Jonah 4:4-9 *The LORD said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?" <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city. <sup>6</sup> So the LORD God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant. <sup>7</sup> But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life." <sup>9</sup> Then God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "I have good reason to be angry, even to death." (NASB)*
- E. Jonah, you're angry because the plant died but you have absolutely no care or concern for 120,000 human beings I just rescued. Jonah, look at who you have become. Look at what **hate** has done to you. Look at what passivity has done to you. Look at how **cold** your heart has become toward those who don't know Me. Look how far away you have drifted from seeing people like I see them.

## II. THE **CHARACTER** OF THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE JONAH REFERENCES.

- A. *Jonah 4:2 "He prayed to the LORD and said, "... for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, and One who relents concerning calamity."*
- B. *Exodus 34:6-7 "And the Lord passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished..." (NIV)*
- C. A God of **grace**.
1. Jonah forgets that all of **us** are the "**bad guys**" and none of us deserve God's grace.
  2. *Romans 3:10-12 "There is none righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. <sup>12</sup> They have all turned aside. They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."*

3. None of us deserve God's grace. That's why it's called grace; it's the **unmerited** favor of God.
4. *Ephesians 2:8-9* "God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." (NLT)

D. A God of **compassion**.

1. *Psalm 86:15* "But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness." (NIV)
2. *Psalm 145:8* "The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love." (NLT)

E. A God of steadfast **love**.

1. *Jeremiah 31:3* "I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself. (God)
2. *Romans 8:38-39* "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, **nothing** in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

F. The Bible also includes many other character traits including holiness, justice, judgment and discipline.

G. The lesson of the entire book of Jonah is this: What really matters to God is **people**.

1. *1 Timothy 2:4-6* "God desires **all** men (people) to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself as a ransom for **all**, the testimony given at the proper time." (NASB)
2. *2 Peter 3:9* "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for **all** to come to repentance." (NASB)

### III. WHO IS THE PERSON INSIDE OF **YOU**?

