

Jonah 4

The Pouting Prophet

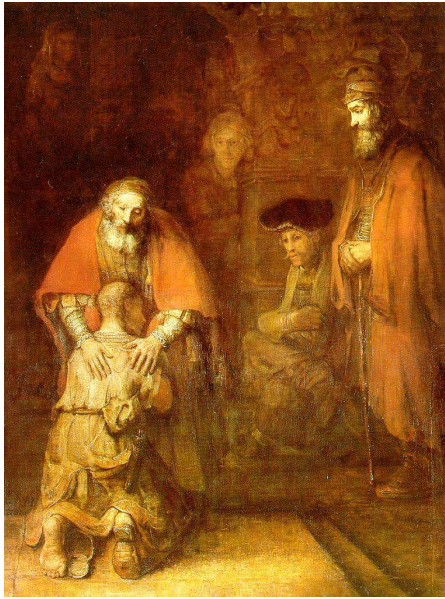
Read Jonah 3:10 - 4:1-11

- Why didn't Jonah want to preach to the Ninevites in the first place?
- How does Jonah know from his own experience that God is compassionate and forgiving? (look back at chapter 2)



Sometimes its hard to want to see those people who you don't like (or who don't like you) become Christians. But that was Jonah's problem. He was a very patriotic Israelite, and he wanted to see God's enemies destroyed. In fact, he says he would rather **die** than see God have mercy on them. Jonah needed to learn that God is even willing to forgive those who we don't like.

- What point is God trying to make through the situation with the plant?
- If we wanted a book that had a nice ending where everyone lived happily ever after, then we should have stopped reading at the end of chapter 3. With the inclusion of chapter 4, the book seems to end quite abruptly and unpleasantly. There is no record of Jonah coming around and seeing God's point of view. What thoughts does the ending leave you with?



Read Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

- From verses 1-3, what is the context of these three parables Jesus tells? Who is he talking to and why?
- Who is Jonah like and what advice does Jesus give to people like Jonah?
- What effect might the book of Jonah have had on the original readers – the Old Testament Jews – who had turned away from God (see the start of study 3 “Jonah and the Israelites”)?
- If, unlike Jonah, we **do** have a heart for God’s purposes, what are some ways **you** can demonstrate a heart for the lost?
- Thinking back over the last few weeks, what have you learnt from the book of Jonah about God and the way he deals with people?
- What have you learnt from Jonah and the Ninevites about how we should or shouldn’t respond to God?
- How does the book of Jonah give you a better understanding of Jesus and what God has done for us through him?