

Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet - 20

Introduction: As we move forward in this chapter, we are confronted with Jonah's condition. Jonah has already made His complaint before the Lord in verses 2 and 3 and now goes out of the city.

Text: Jonah 4:1-11

Verse 5 *"So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city."*

IV. Jonah's Pouting: God's Presentation - Chapter 4

A. Anger and Displeasure v1-4

1. Praying and Honesty v1-3
2. Compassion and Help v4

B. Jonah's _____ v1-9

This booth provided some shade but would have been an open structure. For we read that God prepares a gourd to overshadow Jonah. Which we discover in **verse 6** *"...Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd."*

We see first of all that Jonah's condition is evidenced by his words.

1. His _____

Our words oftentimes declare what is going on in our hearts.

James 3:3-9 *"3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. 4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a **very small helm**, whithersoever the governor listeth. 5 Even so **the tongue is a little member**, and **boasteth great things**. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. 7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: 8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God."*

Look upon this terrible state and let it be a sober reminder to us of the terrible condition we can find ourselves in. We would expect to see this type of condition from an unregenerate man. But might I submit to you this morning that the most miserable state to be in is a Christian who is out of fellowship with His God.

In **verse 2** what we see in Jonah's words is his **defiance**.

Rebellion - Open resistance to lawful authority.

Jonah in **verse 2** brings up His **rebellious actions**. And this rebellious spirit is driven by his selfishness. I want you to understand that Jonah is a patriot. He loves the nation of Israel. He loves His people. Jonah's selfishness and his patriotism became more important than God. Jonah consequently finds his way back into this rebellious spirit.

In **verse 3** we see by Jonah's words his **despair**.

Jonah despairs His life. Albert Barnes said this in his commentary notes, "He had rather die, than see the evil which was to come upon his country. Impatient though he was, he still cast himself upon God. By asking of God to end his life, he, at least, committed himself to the sovereign disposal of God."

In **verse 5** we see Jonah's **discontentment**.

The Bible shows us that fellowship with God is perhaps among the best blessings we have as a Christian.

I John 1:3 *"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."*

John goes on to say in **I John 1:6-7** *"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*

In **verse 9** we see Jonah's **displeasure**.

Notice what he states in response to the Lord now, *"And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, **I do well to be angry, even unto death.**"*

Oh, how greatly we sin with our tongues.

Jonah is **defiant, despairing, discontent, and displeased!**

Charles Spurgeon had this to say about Jonah in this chapter, “It is strange that such a good man as Jonah should fall into such a foolish state of mind. But **God still has a great many unwise children. You can easily find one if you look in the right place—I mean, in a mirror.** We are all foolish at times, and it should be remembered that although Jonah was foolish and wrong in certain respects, there is this redeeming trait in his character—we might never have known the story of his folly if he had not written it himself.” Spurgeon, *The Spurgeon Study Bible: Notes* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 1221.

2. His_____.

- Jonah stormed out of the city.

It appears up until **verse number 4** that Jonah was in the city. Perhaps he observed this great repentance and contrition of heart by the people and it bothered Him so. Perhaps in his mind he thought about the apathy of his own people and here he saw such a turning to God that it grieved him so much.

Whatever the case we have this quick dialogue in verses 1-4 and then Jonah leaving the city of Nineveh.

- Jonah went out of the city and sat in grief desiring for the city to fall under God’s condemnation.

The shadow from the gourd in **verse 6** was meant to “*deliver him from his grief...*” I want you to understand that Jonah is **acting** out his displeasure. Not only do we see his condition in his words but also his actions, which brings us to a question this morning.

The question we must come to is this, what condition are we in at this present moment?

There are so many dangerous pitfalls in the Christian life that lead to a state similar to Jonah’s here one of defiance, discontentment, displeasure, and despairing.