

# Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet - 19

**Introduction:** We begin this lesson with the question, *“Doest thou well to be angry?”* This is the question that God asked Jonah concerning his current attitude.

**Text:** Jonah 4:1-4

## IV. Jonah’s Pouting: God’s Presentation - Chapter 4

### A. Anger and \_\_\_\_\_ v1-4

**Verse number one** of this chapter gave us a vivid description of Jonah’s attitude at this moment. We see then in **verses two and three** Jonah’s **very honest prayer**. Jonah prays plainly and honestly. He is no doubt praying amiss, but he certainly is not trying to conceal how he feels.

Notice he states in **verse 3**, *“Therefore now, O LORD, **take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.**”*

John Butler said had this to say looking at this verse, *“We complain often that God does not answer our prayers; but if we examined the character of our prayers, we would stop complaining and start thanking God for ignoring some of our prayers.”*

We realize several reasons why Jonah might be upset:

1. He understood that His prophecy did not come to pass. (He perhaps would be seen as a false prophet. He perhaps would be branded as a traitor.)
2. He understood that Assyria was an enemy to the nation of Israel.

Jonah in his prayer speaks truth concerning God and His ways in his prayer, for we find almost the exact same words in **Joel 2:13 and Exodus 34:6**.

**Joel 2:13** *“13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, And turn unto the Lord your God: **For he is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness, And repenteth him of the evil.**”*

**Exodus 34:6** *“6 And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, **The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,**”*

However, one expositor said this concerning Jonah’s declaration, it was *“truth which Jonah . . . poorly digested”*

## James and John — the “Sons of Thunder”

You'll remember that the Lord Jesus Christ had sent messengers before his face into Samaria on His way to Jerusalem and this is what the Bible tells us in **Luke 9:53-56**

*“53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? 55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. 56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.”*

**This matter of God's plan of redemption to all men** again is a major thrust of this small book. Jonah is wrestling with this.

### Jonah's Justification

He states there in **verse 2**, “...O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish...”

This is common to man in our waywardness **to attempt to justify ourselves.**

#### 1. Praying and Honesty **v1-3**

But I like for us to consider the Lord's:

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ **v4**

We have the great high and holy privilege to:

- Sing as unto the Lord. (**Colossians 3:16**)
- Pray collectively as a local church body.
- Give cheerfully to the Lord (**II Corinthians 9:7**)
- Submit ourselves as a living sacrifice unto the Lord at this altar. (**Romans 12:1-2**)
- Fellowship among brothers and sisters in Christ and bear each other's burdens. (**Romans 15:1-7**)

I want you also to understand this morning, that there is **Compassion and help from the Lord Himself** for you and me.

Some may be here or come this morning, and the Lord will draw them unto Himself. They will have an opportunity **to receive that marvelous gift of Salvation** by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross of Calvary. Consider these verses:

*“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* **II Corinthians 5:21**

*“To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”* **Romans 3:26**

*“...the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”* **Matthew 20:28**

We can be helped by the Lord because He desires to help us and **He has great compassion for us.**

**Hebrews 4:15-16** *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

What is it that Jonah found through the end of this chapter? He found that the Lord His God had **compassion upon Him and desired to help Him.**

As we travel through the chapter, we will see that the Lord continues to teach Jonah **using some object lessons that He prepares.**

- We see in **verse 6** that **God prepares a gourd.**
- We see in **verse 8** that **God prepares a vehement east wind.**
- And though it's not stated explicitly it is a fact that God created and set the sun that beat on Jonah's head **in verse 8.**

But here **in verse 4**, He simply asks a question. You will find a wealth of instruction and help from the Lord just by contemplating His questions. Here **Jonah 4** He simply asks, *“... Doest thou well to be angry?”*

This question was to be **revealing to Jonah.** We are reminded this morning of the necessity of the Word of God and the necessity of the God of the Word in our lives.

**Jeremiah 17:9**, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”*

**Proverbs 28:26** *“He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: ...”*

The Psalmist David said it right when he declared this necessity of our reliance upon the Lord and His Word, in **Psalm 19:12** he exclaimed, *“Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults.”*