

“Pity the Fool”
Jonah 4:1-11

“If I pity someone, actually I’m showing them mercy.” -- Mr. T.

1. Kingdom before comfort (vv. 1-4).

A) Mercy: a great evil?

“If anyone thinks ill of you, don’t be angry; for you are worse than he thinks you to be.” -- C.H. Spurgeon

“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one” – God (Rom 3:10-12)

B) Grace: good for Jonah ...but not Nineveh?

C) Give me comfort or give me death!

Application:

i) Not about Jonah (us), but God.

ii) Check your theology.

2. Holiness, not happiness (vv. 5-9).

A) Jonah meets God.

B) God teaches Jonah about pity.

Notice the contrast:

God appoints a prophet (v. 3:2)

The prophet *saves* Nineveh (v. 3:5)

Jonah is *unhappy* (v. 4:1)

God appoints a vine (v. 6a).

The shade *saves* Jonah (v. 6b).

Jonah is happy (v. 6c).

“If you come to Jesus for money, then he’s not your God, money is!”

-- Shai Linne

Jonah experiences God’s wrath

God *strikes down* the plant (v. 7).

God *strikes down* Jonah (v. 8a).

Jonah wants to die (v. 8b).

C) Justified anger?

Application:

- i) Let God judge who deserves his grace.
- ii) Share the gospel with everyone because none deserve God's grace.

3. Pity the fool (vv. 10-11).

- A) Jonah's pity vs. God's pity.
(for the plant) (for Nineveh)
- B) Nineveh, the fool.

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt,
they do abominable deeds,
there is none who does good.
(Psa 14:1 ESV)

God's knowledge of man's foolish condition propels his mercy, his pity, towards the fool.