



## Jonah 4

*“But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, ‘Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.’ But the Lord replied, ‘**Is it right for you to be angry?**’*

*Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant[a] and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”*

*But God said to Jonah, “**Is it right for you to be angry** about the plant?” “It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”*

*But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”*

## Jonah is disconnected with the heart of God

Spiritual maturity isn’t demonstrated by how  
we much we know about God

Spiritual maturity is demonstrated by Heart Change  
(viewing people and treating people as Jesus would)

## Jonah’s disconnection with God seems to be caused by...

### 1. Beliefs about who the Lord should care about

*“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”* Luke 6:35-36

### 2. Beliefs of what the Lord should & shouldn’t do

*“While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’”* Matthew 9:10-13

### 3. Being ungrateful for how the Lord had shown him mercy

*“At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.”* Titus 3:3-5

*“Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind...”*

*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:”* Philippians 2:1-5

## QUESTIONS:

How have you experienced the mercy of God in your life?

When has it been a challenge to give mercy to others?

What does God connect our relationship with others so closely to our connection with Him? Read 1 John 4:16-21. What gives us confidence on the day of judgement?

How connected do you feel to the heart of God? Why?