

JONAH IN JEOPARDY

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

Let us consider the conduct of a shameful prophet and a merciful God.

I. JONAH'S DISPLEASURE (3:10-4:4)

A. ANGER AT GOD (3:10-4:1)

1. God's Mercy (3:10)
2. Jonah's Manner (4:1)
 - a. Displeased: To tremble or quiver
 - To be displeased is literally: To consider it evil
 - b. Angry: Stoked, furious, ignited! > Literally: He became hot!
 - The froth prison is worse than his fish prison!

B. ATTACK ON GOD (4:2-3)

1. A Pouting Prayer (2)
 - Quarreling with God in prayer
2. A Pitiful Plea (3) "Kill me!"
 - a. His reasoning: Better to die than endure a merciful God!
 - b. His request: Kill me (destruction), though he would not take his own life (see 2:11-16)

C. ANSWER FROM GOD (4:4)

1. God's Question
 - God says, "Consider your ways"
2. God's Character
 - Very patient with a carping Jonah!

II. JONAH'S DEMEANOR (3:5-9)

A. SELF-SUFFICIENT (5)

1. His Humph! - "I don't have to answer"
 - He does not answer God's question > He walks away from God
2. His Hut - "I don't have to suffer"
 - He goes out of town and builds his own shelter for shade
3. His Hope - "I don't have to be disappointed"
 - I'll wait to see what will happen

Over please >

B. STUBBORN (6-8)

1. First he is Grateful (6)
 - God's design and deliverance brought Jonah's delight
2. Then he is Grumpy (7-8)
 - Jonah is faint, then fickle and finally foolish

C. SASSY (9)

1. God's Question
 - In v. 4 God asked Jonah about his anger with people; now he asked him about his anger over a plant!
2. Jonah's Conclusion
 - "I have a right; my anger is justified"

III. GOD'S DECLARATION (4:10-11)

A. JONAH'S PROBLEM (10)

1. He was focused on gourds and not grace
2. He was much more concerned about his comfort than God's compassion
3. He had pity on a passing plant
4. He has passion for something into which he invested nothing

B. GOD'S PRIORITY (11)

1. People!
 - People are far more important than plants or making one prophet happy
2. Pity!
 - God prefers mercy over judgment - See Gen. 18:20-33 and II Peter 3:9

CONCLUSION:

We are in jeopardy when we conclude that some people don't merit God's mercy!

- The "Liberals"
- The Abortionists
- The Pornographers
- The Homosexuals

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