Crossroads International Church 2024-09-29 & 2024-10-06

Series: **Unexpected Lessons from Jonah** by Matthew Lyle

**The Reluctant Prophet**

An Unexpected Experience (ch 1)

An Expected Outcome (ch 2)

**The Repentant People**

An Expected Outcome (ch 3)

An Unexpected Experience (ch 4)

Problem: The Prophet of God is Disobedient The People of Nineveh are Obedient

Summary: The result of Jonah’s disobedience The result of God’s deferred punishment

 was God’s discipline (ch 1 & 2) of Nineveh was Jonah’s displeasure

Overview: Jonah’s Disobedience (ch 1 and Displeasure (ch 4) reveal Deeper Lessons

Purpose: To demonstrate God’s Mercy, Sovereignty, Calling, and Plan for Humanity

I. The Power of God’s Word (Ch 3).

A. Jonah Obeyed (1-4): The result of Jonah’s discipline (ch 2) was that the same prophetic calling (ch 1)

 resulted in obedience “according to the word of the Lord”

B. Nineveh Prayed (5-6): **The What**: Recognizing the truth of God’s word, the people of Nineveh grieved and

and mourned. https://www.gotquestions.org/sackcloth-and-ashes.html

**The Why**: when faced with impending catastrophe, people are more likely to recognize the fragility of life and turn to God in repentance, realizing that true security and hope can only be found in Him, and that it is never too late to seek His mercy and grace.

C. Nineveh Repented (7-9): Everyone “turned” from their evil way with no expectation that God would relent

 of his judgment

D. God Relented (10): 1. God’s action (to relent) was in line with his character.

2. IMMUTABILITY (Unchangeableness): Scripture shows us that God is unchanging in

his being, perfections, purposes, and promises (Psalm 102:27, Malachi 3:6, James 1:17).

3. God’s communicable / shared attributes explain why he relented with his judgment.

4. We are called to demonstrate God’s communicable (or shared) attributes

https://bibleproject.com/explore/category/character-of-god-series/

II. Jonah’s Pathetic Anger (Ch 4).

A. Jonah Complained (1-3): Jonah understands God’s attributes (gracious, merciful, slow to anger, abounding in

 steadfast love, and relenting from disaster) but fails to demonstrate them.

He becomes angry at God’s mercy toward Nineveh and wishes for death.

B. God Explained (4): God’s discipline isn’t always bad.

He questions Jonah: “Is it right for you to be angry?”

C. Jonah Complained (5): Jonah ignores God’s question and sulks instead.

He leaves the city, builds a shelter, and waits to see if God will destroy Nineveh.

D. God Explained (6-8): God teaches through a plant, a worm, and the scorching wind.

God appoints a plant to provide Jonah shade, then appoints a worm to destroy it, followed by a scorching wind, revealing Jonah’s selfishness in his anger over the plant’s destruction.

E. Jonah Complained (9): Jonah is more concerned about the plant than the people of Nineveh.

 He angrily declares that it’s better for him to die than live without the plant's shade.

F. God Explained (10-11): God shows Jonah the inconsistency of his values.

God points out Jonah’s misplaced compassion for a plant he did not labor over while neglecting the 120,000 people and animals in Nineveh, demonstrating God’s greater concern for human life and mercy.

**Jonah’s anger fueled his disobedience and displeasure,**

 **deterring him from showing compassion**

1. God Created Emotions

The Bible shows that humans, being made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), experience a wide range of emotions. Even God is depicted as having emotions, such as love (1 John 4:8), anger (Psalm 7:11), and compassion (Psalm 103:13). This reflects the idea that emotions are a natural and important part of the human experience.

2. The Role of Emotions in Relationships with God and Others

• Love: The Bible calls for love to be the greatest guiding emotion, particularly love for God and for others (Matthew 22:37-39). Love is central to Christian life (1 Corinthians 13).

• Compassion and Empathy: Believers are encouraged to show compassion and empathy toward others (Colossians 3:12, Romans 12:15).

• Joy and Gratitude: Joy is a recurring theme in the Bible. Paul advises believers to "rejoice always" (Philippians 4:4) and to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

3. Managing Negative Effects of Emotions

The Bible also recognizes difficult and negative emotions, but offers guidance for managing them:

• Anger: Ephesians 4:26 says, "In your anger, do not sin." This acknowledges that anger is a natural emotion but should not lead to sinful behavior. Jesus displayed righteous anger (Matthew 21:12-13), showing that anger can be appropriate when directed at injustice or wrongdoing.

• Fear and Anxiety: The Bible frequently advises against fear and worry, emphasizing trust in God (Philippians 4:6-7, Matthew 6:25-34). Psalm 56:3 says, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."

• Sadness and Mourning: The Bible validates sadness and grief. Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus (John 11:35), showing that sorrow is a legitimate emotion. However, believers are reminded that their hope in God offers comfort (Matthew 5:4, Psalm 34:18).

4. Emotions as Indicators but Not Dictators

The Bible often portrays emotions as a reflection of the heart's condition (Proverbs 4:23). Emotions can guide people to recognize where they need God's help or transformation. However, emotions are not meant to control actions. The Bible stresses self-control as a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and encourages believers to seek wisdom in responding to their feelings.

5. The Role of the Holy Spirit in Emotions

The Holy Spirit plays a significant role in shaping and guiding emotions. Believers are encouraged to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit, which includes joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). These qualities help in regulating emotions and ensuring that one's responses align with God's will.

Summary

• Emotions are God-given but must be aligned with faith.

• Positive emotions like love, joy, and gratitude are encouraged.

• Negative emotions like anger, fear, and sadness are acknowledged but should be managed in godly ways.

• Self-control and trust in God are essential for emotional health according to the Bible.

• In summary, the Bible encourages believers to embrace emotions while also exercising wisdom and self-control in how they are expressed and acted upon.