



Camarillo Community Church

“Do You Matter To God?”

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1. Jonah is message of God’s mercy and grace.

God’s mercy and grace to His people.

But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. (Jonah 1:3).

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time (Jonah 3:1)

God’s mercy and grace to the world

Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it. (Jonah 3:10)

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. So he prayed to the LORD, and said, “Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You *are* a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. (Jonah 4:1-2) And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?” (Jonah 4:11)

2. God is rich in mercy and grace.

4. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5. even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6. and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

7. that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7)

3. We receive mercy and grace at His throne.

14. Inasmuch then as we have a great High Priest Who has ascended and passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

15. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning.

16. Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in good time for every need. (Hebrews 4:14-16 Amplified)

Life Group Homework

Getting Started

1. Have you experienced an event or circumstance that you viewed one way while it was happening but later you realized your understanding of that event or circumstance was wrong? Why did you have an inaccurate understanding to begin with? Explain.
2. What insight, principle or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

Jonah didn't get God's heart at all – he knows it, theologically speaking, but he doesn't get it. God's concern is much greater than our concerns! Forgiving is what God does best. Jonah knows this and he hates it. It seems odd that Jonah spoke the words of verse 2 in anger: "I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity!" Jonah does not see this as a good point because in his mind these people deserved judgment!

The trouble is...we all deserve judgment, Ninevites, Jonah and us. But God is willing to offer forgiveness, to the Ninevites, to Jonah and to us if we are willing to humble ourselves and turn to Him.

Read Jonah 4:1-4.

Jonah had just preached to the great city of Nineveh and they repented. What does this passage tell us about Jonah?

What are the similarities in attitudes between Jonah's case and the following two parables? See Matt 20:13-16, Luke 15:25-32.

Read Jonah 4:5-8.

What does Jonah's action tell us about his heart? Why did Jonah build a shelter?

Why do you think God provided the vine when Jonah already had a shelter?

Was God being unfair to Jonah by sending the worm? What lessons was God trying to teach Jonah?

Read Jonah 4:9-11.

Compare Jonah 4:4 with 4:9? What does God want Jonah to think about? Does Jonah have a "right" to be angry about these things? Why or why not?

Why was God concerned about the people of Nineveh, Israel's enemy? See Romans 9:15-16, 2 Peter 3:9.

Application

What can anger teach us about ourselves? What can we learn from the following examples? See Genesis 4:3-8, Proverbs 29:22, Ephesians 4:26-27, James 1:19-20.

In what ways are you and I like Jonah? Do personal prejudices or comforts get in the way of my sharing of God's message? See 1 Peter 3:15.

How is the message of the Gospel illustrated in the story of Jonah? What new insights about God have I learned from this Bible study series? Reflect on:

God's sovereignty

God's compassion and mercy

Mission

Missed a message? Need a note taking outline? Find it here at:
camarillocommunitychurch.com