

Jonah and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Mercy of God.

June 6th & 7th, 2026



Read Jonah 4.

1. Why was Jonah angry after Nineveh repented? What does his reaction reveal about his attitude toward the Ninevites and his understanding of God's mercy?

2. God responds to Jonah's anger with a question: "*Is it right for you to be angry?*" How would you answer that question? Was Jonah's anger justified or sinful?

3. Jonah goes outside the city and waits to see what will happen (**v. 5**). What do you think Jonah was hoping to see? What does this suggest about the state of his heart?

4. God appoints a plant to give Jonah shade, and Jonah is "very happy" about it. Why is it significant that Jonah could feel joy over a plant but struggled to rejoice over 120,000 people being saved?

5. God then sends a worm to destroy the plant, and Jonah is deeply distressed. What is God teaching Jonah through this sequence of the plant growing and dying? What is the lesson about compassion?

6. God contrasts Jonah's concern for the plant with His own concern for Nineveh (**v. 10-11**). What criteria does God use to justify His compassion for the city? How does this challenge any notion that God's mercy is limited to one group of people?

7. God mentions that there were also "*many animals*" in Nineveh (**v. 11**). Why might God include this detail? What does it say about the scope of God's care for creation?

8. The book ends abruptly without telling us Jonah's response. Why do you think the author ends it this way? What effect does this open ending have on the reader?

9. How does **Jonah 4** connect to the broader theme of the book? In what ways does Jonah serve as a mirror for the reader, and how might his attitude toward "*outsiders*" show up in our own lives today?