

"Overthrown by Grace" **Jonah 4**

1. The word "But" at the beginning of verse 1 highlights the contrast between God's compassion (3:10) and Jonah's displeasure, and between God's turning from His anger (3:9) and Jonah becoming angry. Out of anger and disgust, Jonah rebukes the Lord by saying: "I knew it! I knew that You were going to be forgiving and compassionate and now look what has happened?" The people repented! What does Jonah admit in verse 2 as the reason he fled to Tarshish?

2. Read John 4:2; Exodus 34:6; and Psalm 103:8-12. What do these verses reveal to about God's character and His attributes?

Jonah feared that all these attributes of God would be extended toward the despicable, cruel Ninevites—and it actually happened! What should have been Jonah's attitude?

3. Because God relented of His wrath and did not destroy the city, Jonah was so emotionally disappointed that he lost all reason for living. God was concerned about the city but Jonah was not. What does the Lord then ask of Jonah in verse 4?

How does Jonah respond?

What does Jonah do next? Why do you think he does this?

4. The One who rules over the sea provided a fish to swallow Jonah. What does the same God of the land provide for Jonah in verse 6 (even when His servant was upset and depressed)?

How did Jonah feel about this?

Ironically Jonah was glad for his own comfort but not for the Ninevites' relief from judgment.

How does God provide for us even we are at times ungrateful and fail to recognize Him?

5. On the following day, what 2 things does the Lord then "appoint" or "provide"?
What is the result and what is Jonah's response to this?

In what 2 ways did God also intervene in chapter 1 (vss. 4 & 17)?

6. What does God ask of Jonah in verse 9?
How does Jonah answer?

7. What connection does God make between the plant and the Ninevites in His final question to Jonah in verses 10 & 11?

8. When do you find that your concerns are more dictated by self-interest rather than a genuine Christ-like love and eternal perspective toward others?