

THAT GREAT CITY

Jonah 4

August 4, 2019

And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle? -Jonah 4:11

I. THE BOOK OF JONAH

- Jonah can be broken down succinctly like this:

Chapter One: Jonah Running - nothing interrupts the sovereign will of God (1:4, 1:7; 1:17).

Chapter Two: Jonah Repenting - salvation comes from the Lord (2:1; 2:9-10).

Chapter Three: Jonah Returning - God is a God of second chances (3:2; 3:4; 3:6; 3:10).

Chapter Four: Jonah Reprimanding - as Jeremiah is known as the "weeping prophet," Jonah may properly be known as the "whining prophet" (4:1-4; 4:8-9).

II. LEARNING TO CARE

- God cares for some people that we do not care about (Ex. 22:21-23; Ruth 4:13-14; Eze. 33:11; Eph. 2:11-18).
- Even in places where sin and iniquity abound, innocent lives exist (Jonah 4:11).
- One of our goals as Christ-imitators is to develop a heart that cares for people who are created in God's image (Mark 6:30-34)

III. GOING AND DOING

- Jonah, after much reluctance, went and did what God called him to do. The results were God's, not Jonah's (Jonah 3:6-9).
- Ministry can be very complicated and "ugly" sometimes. It is rarely what we anticipate it to be (2 Cor. 11:22-33).
- A willingness to serve is necessary, not a truck-load of gifts to offer (2 Cor. 8:11-12).

KNOW: God will not be left without a witness to those whom he desires to save. We may be the means by which many...or one, will come to know Christ.

DO: Go with the gospel message.

Suggested Reading:

Serving Without Sinking: How to Serve Christ and Keep Your Joy
by John Hindley (LifePoint Library #248.4 HIN)

5-P Evangelism by Tony Guinn (LifePoint Library #269.2 GUI)
Online Lectures: <http://www.lifepointindy.com/resources/seminars/>

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Jonah 4

1. Why was Jonah so displeased? Can you relate to that displeasure in any way?
2. What does Jonah know about the character of God? How does he know that?
3. Discuss how God deals with Jonah in chapter four. What does he seem to be trying to get across to Jonah?
4. Does this relate at all to our ongoing debates in this country concerning immigration/refugees/ethnic issues?
5. How might we develop more of a heart for the nations? How might we develop a desire to see them reached with the gospel?
6. What is one specific take-away for you from the message or this passage of Scripture?