

Worship Discussion and Reflection Questions

Sermon Series: Ancient Voices for Unsettled Times

Sermon: *Jonah: The Gospel Despite Jonah*

Scripture: Jonah 4:5-11

5 Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. 6 Now the Lord God appointed a plant[a] and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort.[b] So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” 9 But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.” 10 And the Lord said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. 11 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?”

Reflection Questions:

- What does Jonah’s anger at God’s compassion reveal about your own heart and the people you struggle to love?
- Where might you “arise to flee” rather than “arise to obey”?
- In what areas of your life might God be calling you to whole-hearted obedience? What would look different tomorrow?
- How does God’s compassion for His enemies change how we view those we do not like? What might we do differently?
- Jonah ends with the question, “Should I not have compassion?” How might you honestly answer?

Guided Prayer:

Praise God for loving His enemies, especially you. Thank God that He does not leave you an enemy, but transforms your heart and makes you His child. Repent of any running, reluctance or resentment you have toward God’s grace for those you do not like. Ask Him to help you to love the way He loves, even His enemies. Ask God to show you how you can be whole-heartedly obedient to Him. Thank Him for his great compassion and love for you through Jesus Christ. In His Name we pray, Amen!