



# Pursued by Mercy

May 3-9, 2026

**MAIN IDEA:** As recipients of God's mercy, we can eagerly sacrifice our comforts to share His mercy with others.

**READ [JONAH 4:1-4](#).**

**Has there ever been a time when you were displeased with God? Or, even mad at him?**

**How did you behave toward God during that time? How did God respond to you?**

In verses 2-3, Jonah prays. He tells God why he fled to Tarshish—because he knew that God is “gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love, and one who relents from sending disaster.” Clearly, these are all good character traits. But Jonah isn't keen on the idea that God would act in Nineveh's favor.

**What does Jonah's prayer communicate about his contempt for Nineveh?**

**Have you ever felt contempt for someone? How did your contempt manifest itself?**

Looking at Jonah's prayer, it's important to note that his theology (his thoughts and words about God) was spot-on. He articulated God's character accurately: God is gracious and compassionate, he is slow to anger and abounding in faithful love, and he does relent from sending disaster. The problem was not Jonah's theology, it was his application of his theology.

**Have you ever applied your theology in an inappropriate or misguided way?**

**What things can we do to rightly apply the truths we believe about God?**

We finally hear God's response to Jonah in verse 4. He didn't scold or berate Jonah. He simply asked him a question: “Is it right for you to be angry?”

**READ [JONAH 4:5-9](#).**

God didn't give up on Jonah. He invited Jonah to see the foolishness of his heart by repeating in verse 9 the question he asked in verse 4: “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” And Jonah answered, “Yes!” Jonah believed it was more important for him to be comfortable than for Nineveh to be saved. Jonah's self-centeredness is on full display.

**In what ways is being attached to our comforts self-centered?**

**What can we do to overcome any self-centeredness in ourselves?**

David encouraged us to consider what it might look like to let go of our comforts to spread God's Word and the good news about the mercy he offers. Since God has been so merciful to us, we can sacrifice comfort to share his mercy with others.

**In what specific ways is God calling you to sacrifice your comforts and embrace his command to spread his Word?**