

July 24, 2011

Willow Park South Small Group Questions

“Jonah: Chapter 4”

Jonah 4:1-11

- Please read *Jonah 4:1-11* together at the beginning of your small group meeting.

Although the people of Nineveh repented and God relented of the disaster that He had for the Ninevites, Jonah was exceedingly displeased with God’s actions.

Why was Jonah so displeased with God’s mercy towards the Ninevites?

What within Jonah’s prayer is ironic?

- It is ironic that the compassionate character of God is the root of Jonah's anger.

How did Jonah’s bitterness void Him of appreciating God’s goodness?

What are some of the parallels between Jonah’s attitude towards God and the Pharisees attitude towards Jesus?

What question did God ask Jonah in response to Jonah’s prayer?

As Jonah set up camp outside of Nineveh, “God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant.” (Jonah 4:6 ESV).

What happened to the plant early the next day?

Why did God appoint the plant to comfort Jonah only to make it wither in the end?

What contrast did God make between Jonah's compassion and God's compassion?

- Jonah 4:10-11 (ESV) *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. 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 rejoiced over a plant rather than rejoicing in God's grace and mercy for a dying people. God rebukes Jonah, stating that if Jonah has a right to be concerned over a plant, how much more is God justified in being concerned over thousands of people.

Is there a comforting "plant" in your life that you are more concerned about than those who are unsaved?

What perspective are you looking at the world through? A perspective of anger and judgement towards the unsaved or a perspective of love and concern?