

Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet, Part III
Nowhere to Run to...
Jonah 3-4
July 18, 2021

- I. Catching up With our Prophet on the Run
Jonah 1-2
 - A. Rejects God's Call
Jonah 1:1-3
 - B. Endangers Himself and Others while in a Spiritual Slumber
Jonah 1:3-15
 - C. Refuses to Repent but Agrees to Obey
Jonah 2:8-10
- II. Jonah's Successful Preaching Tour through Nineveh
Jonah 3
 - A. A Word on Wickedness
Jonah 1:2
 - B. A Five Word Sermon
Jonah 3:4
 - C. The Prophet's Ironical Word Play
Jonah 3:4,8-10
- III. God Gives Jonah an Object Lesson
Jonah 4
 - A. Jonah Raises Cain
Jonah 1:3, 4:1,4,5; Gen. 4
 - B. God Raises a Plant
Jonah 4:5-9
 - C. God Raises His Concern
Jonah 4:10-11
- IV. A World of Jonahs
 - A. God Comforts the Afflicted... and Afflicts the Comfortable
Ps. 18:27, Ps. 119; Hebrews 12:5; James 1:9-11
 - B. "And who is my enemy?
Jonah 4:10-12; Luke 10:25-37
 - C. A Return to Eden
Jonah 1:3, 5, 9

Questions for Further Reflection

1. Kid's Question: What is the angriest you have been? What made you so angry? Who were you angry at or what were you angry about? How did things work out?
2. How has this reading of Jonah challenged your presuppositions about how the Bible works?
3. How do you feel about all the language surrounding wickedness, wrath, and judgment? Do you find it difficult to be balanced in your desire for justice and mercy?
4. When have you obeyed God by following the letter of the law but not the spirit of the law? What was the result?
5. Do you believe God has a sense of humour? Have you experienced that humour in any way?
6. Do you find the parallels between Jonah and Cain convincing? Why or why not? How does this reading of Cain into the story transform the story for you?

7. How would asking the question, “Do you have any right to be angry?” change your behaviour when frustration comes your way?
8. How does the statement, “God comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable” sit with you? Where do you fall on this spectrum? What is God doing in your life?
9. Do you have any enemies? How does God feel about them?
10. What role does Jesus play in the way you view the world around you?