

Warts & All
(Series - Jonah: A Life on the Run)
Jonah 4:1-11

INTRODUCTION

When the controversial, English political and military leader, Oliver Cromwell, sat for the official portrait that would portray his appearance to future generations, he was said to have instructed the artist to paint him just as he saw him. He wanted not flattery to be involved in the portrait. In Cromwell's words, he instructed the artist to paint '**warts and all**'. Since that day the phrase 'warts and all' has been used around the world to express the desire to give a true representation, to show all the defects as well as all the good points. In like manner, the Word of God presents people with great realism, honesty, and transparency. When God paints a portrait of a man or woman, He paints them 'warts and all'.

In chapter 4, we find the final recorded conversation between God and Jonah. Please turn in your Bibles to **Jonah 4:1-11**. For the last several weeks, we've been studying the life and message of a prophet that reminds us very much of ourselves. There are **three key thoughts** that I want you to commit to paper or memory that will help us apply **Jonah 4** to our own life: **(1) attitude** – determine the quality of behavior; **(2) consistency** – we can be hot/cold; excited/apathetic; with it/out to lunch. Yet, we represent Someone who is the same today, tomorrow, and forever. Our yes is yes; we don't have to ask for clarifications of terms; and **(3) perspective** – we get so hung up on the minutia of life.

For this morning, we are going to divide the text into 2

sections:

I. The prophet's _____ (4:1-5)

The prophet's displeasure is seen in **3 ways**:

A. Jonah's _____ (4:1)

Jonah is angry at the fact that God did what He said He would do. **Jonah** would have rather had God listen to him, not the other way around.

B. Jonah's _____ (4:2-3)

C. Jonah's _____ (4:4-5)

II. The Lord's _____ (4:6-11)

The **Key Thought: Consistency**. God appoints **3 visuals** to teach Jonah: **plant (vine), worm, wind**. God, being slow to anger (v. 2) deals graciously with Jonah.

A. The _____ lesson (4:6-8)

B. The _____ lesson (4:9-11)

Key Word: Perspective.

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? **The book ends with a question mark.** (*And to an extent so does the Parable of the Prodigal Son*) This book ends with the emphasis on God's love for people. God appeals to **Jonah**, and rather than show us **Jonah's** response, He invites us to respond. Will we show compassion, or will we run from our responsibility? God's great concern is the salvation of the lost. Is this our concern or are we more concerned about our own comfort? God had the final word in the book of **Jonah**. It is a word that reminds us that His mission is to receive the lost, retrieve the lost and redeem the lost. We do not know if **Jonah** ever learned his lesson, **but we do know that we should learn our lesson; and, that is, whatever is important to God should be important to us.**