

“Conditions Of The Heart”
Jonah 4:5-6

Introduction:

1. Have You Ever Known Someone With A “Heart Condition!”
 - I Think We All Have! All Do!
 - A Heart Condition Can Be A Very Serious Thing!
 - And That Is What We Will See This Morning:
 - As We Once Again Head Over To The Book Of Jonah!
 - Jonah Chapter 4!
 - Jonah, Too, Has A Heart Condition!
 - He Just Doesn’t Know It Yet! **IE:** Heart Attack!
 - But His Condition Is Not One:
 - Of A Physical Nature!
 - No - It Is One Of A Spiritual Nature!
2. In Jonah Chapter 4 - Verses 1-4 - Where We Last Were:
 - We Learned That There Was Something Still Missing:
 - In Jonah’s Heart!
 - Even Though He Finally Obeyed The Lord & Went To Nineveh!
 - All Was Not Right!
 - All Was Not Well:
 - In Jonah’s Heart!
 - Something Was Still Missing In His Heart!
 - It Was Compassion!
 - God’s Compassion Was Missing In His Heart!
 - Which Is Why He Was Angry:
 - When God Spared & Saved The People Of Nineveh, After They Repented From Their Wickedness & Sin!
 - 4:1 - “But It Displeased Jonah Exceedingly, And He Was Very Angry!”
3. So - The Lord Had Some More Things To Deal With:
 - In Jonah’s Heart!
 - And He Begins In 4:4 With These Words To His Pouting & Sulking Prophet:
 - “Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?”
 - God Begins To Deal With Jonah’s Heart Condition:
 - By Tenderly Asking Him A Question!
 - He First Wanted Jonah To Think About His Own Condition & Respond!
4. And, Make No Mistake, Jonah Does Respond!
 - How? Look At Verse 5:
 - “So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city!”
 - Jonah Does Respond To The Lord’s Question:
 - Not In Words!
 - But In Actions!
 - And His Actions:
 - Speak Even Louder Than His Words!
 - And What We Will First See This Morning:
 - Is That:

* Verse 5:

1. ***Reveals The Condition Of Jonah’s Heart!***
 - That It Is Still Cold & Hard Toward The Ninevites!
 - His Actions Tell Us A Lot About His Heart!
 - But - Did You Know - So Do Yours!
 - Your Own Actions:
 - Call Tell You A Lot About Your Own Heart!
 - Let’s Look At What Jonah’s Actions:
 - In This Verse:
 - Can Tell Us!

- And Can Teach Us! That:
- Your Absence Is Very Telling!
 - As It Was For Jonah!
 - In 4:5 - We Learn About Jonah's Own:
 - Absence From The City!
 - "So Jonah Went Out From The City!"
 - After Jonah Did What God Told Him To Do:
 - That Was It! Jonah Was Done!
 - God Had Told Him To:
 - "Go To / Unto" Nineveh Two Times Now!
 - But He Never Told Him:
 - When To Leave! When To "Go Out!"
 - To Jonah - His Work In Nineveh Was Done!
 - He Had Kept The Letter Of God's Word:
 - But Lost The Spirit!
 - And Jonah's Absence From Nineveh:
 - Is Very Telling!
 - It Reveals The Condition Of His Heart!
 - That It Was Still Cold & Hard!
 - What You Are Absent From:
 - In Your Service For The Lord!
 - And Even In Your Worship Of The Lord!
 - Can Be Very Telling Of Your Own Heart's Condition!
 - Jonah's Absence Was Very Telling!
 - And So Is Ours!
 - What Does It Reveal About Your Heart?
- Your Activities Are Very Telling!
 - As It was For Jonah!
 - In 4:5 - We Also Learn About Jonah's Own:
 - Activity By The City!
 - "And Sat On The East Of The City, And There Made Him A Booth!"
 - After Doing What God Had Told Him To Do:
 - After Being Practically Dragged To Nineveh!
 - Now He Really Gets Moving!
 - And Makes A Temporary Shelter In Order To See What Would Happen To Nineveh!
 - And Jonah's Activity By Nineveh:
 - Is Very Telling!
 - It Reveals Even Further The Condition Of His Heart!
 - Now - All Of His Activity - All Of His Energy & Effort - Was Directed Toward His Own Desire & Comfort!
 - If His Heart Was For The Ninevites:
 - Instead Of Spending His Efforts Outside The City!
 - He Would Have Spent His Effort Inside The City!
 - Even Praying For The People!
 - As Abraham Once Did For The City Of Sodom! Genesis 18!
 - Remember That? 50 / 45 / 40 / 30 / 20 / 10!
 - Do You Realize:
 - That Your Activities Are Telling As Well?
 - Where Do You Spend Your Energy & Effort?
 - We Will Often Do:
 - What We Want To Do!
 - We Will Find / Make The Time!
 - And We Give It Everything We've Got!
 - But When It Comes To:
 - The Things Of God!
 - We Often Do It Half-Heartedly!
 - Jonah's Activities Were Very Telling!
 - And So Are Ours!

- What Do They Reveal About Your Heart?
- Your Abiding Is Very Telling!
 - As It Was For Jonah!
 - In 4:5 - We See Jonah's Own:
 - Abiding / Waiting Outside Of The City!
 - Where He "Sat!"
 - He - "Sat On The East Of The City!"
 - And He - "Sat Under It – Under His Booth – In The Shadow!"
 - After His Preaching In Nineveh:
 - What Did Jonah Do?
 - He Didn't Remain In Nineveh!
 - He Didn't Go Back To Joppa!
 - He Didn't Even Go Back To Israel!
 - No - He Went To The East Of The City:
 - Built A Booth!
 - And Then He Just Sat There Under It!
 - Was There Nothing Else For Jonah To Do?
 - Was There No Other Place For Jonah To Go?
 - Was There No Other Word For Jonah To Share?
 - And Yet - There Jonah Abides & Waits!
 - And Sits! Idle! Yet Eager For Something That Would Satisfy His Desires!
 - And Jonah's Abiding Near Nineveh:
 - Is Very Telling!
 - This Was Not Where God Wanted Jonah To Be!
 - God Called Jonah **TO** The City!
 - Not **FROM** The City!
 - But Do You Realize:
 - That Your Abiding Is Telling As Well?
 - In The Christian Life:
 - There Are Times To Work!
 - There Are Times To Wait!
 - But Where Do You Wait?
 - Where Do You Abide? And Why?
 - Are You Where God Has Called You To Be?
 - Sometimes We Abide Where We Should Not Be!
 - Remember David - 2 Samuel 11:1 - "At The Times When Kings Go Forth To Battle" - Where Was David - "But David Tarried Still At Jerusalem!"
 - And He Was Tempted & Sinned Greatly Against The Lord!
 - We Must Not Abide:
 - Where God Has Not Called Us!
 - Where God Does Not Want Us To Be!
 - Jonah's Abiding / Waiting Was Very Telling!
 - And So Is Yours!
 - What Does It Reveal About Your Heart?
- Your Anticipation Is Very Telling!
 - As It Was For Jonah!
 - In 4:5 - We Further See Jonah's Own:
 - Anticipation For The City!
 - Jonah Anticipated Something Unthinkable!
 - The Destruction Of An Entire City!
 - "Till He Might See What Would Become Of The City!"
 - He Was Hoping That God Would Wipe The City Out!
 - This Is Unimaginable For A Prophet Of God, We Think!
 - And Jonah's Anticipation For Nineveh:
 - Is Very Telling!
 - It Reveals The Condition Of His Heart!
 - But What About Your Own Anticipation?
 - What Are You Waiting For?

- What Are You Looking For?
- We Are Often So Short-Sighted - Aren't We?
 - What We Anticipate & Desire Is So Temporal & Temporary!
- We Often Just Live For:
 - Worldly Pleasures!
 - Like Prosperity / Success / Escapes / Entertainment!
- We May Not Be Anticipating Something As Morbid As Jonah!
 - But What We Anticipate:
 - Tells A Lot About Our Own Hearts!
- What Does This Verse:
 - Teach You & Reveal To You:
 - About Your Own Heart?
 - In Your Walk With The Lord?
 - In Your Worship Of The Lord?
 - In Your Work / Service For The Lord?
 - Are You More Focused On:
 - Doing Your Own Will?
 - And Going Your Own Way?
 - Instead Of Doing The Lord's Will?
 - And Following His Way?
 - If You Belong To The Lord:
 - Then He Has Yet Another Way To Deal With You!
 - And To Draw Your Heart Closer To His Own!
 - Which Is Found In:

* Verse 6 - Which:

1. Reveals The Condition Of God's Heart!

- What Did The Lord Do As A Result Of What Jonah Did In 4:5?
 - 4:6 - "And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd!"
 - In Spite Of Jonah's Response To God & His Question To Him:
 - **God Was Still Good To Jonah!**
 - Not Just As His Prophet!
 - But As His Child!
 - God's Goodness To Jonah Is Clearly Seen In This Verse!
 - How?
- In His Providence!
 - In Jonah's Life!
 - What Did God Do?
 - 4:6 - "And The Lord God Prepared A Gourd!"
 - That Is - He Had Selected & Prepared A Special Plant To Do A Special Service For Him!
 - The Word "Prepare" Here:
 - Is The Same Word Used In 1:17 - When The Lord Had "Prepared A Great Fish To Swallow Up Jonah!"
 - I Believe This Shows That God Was Still In Control Of Jonah's Situation – Even More Than He Realized!
 - See - God Knew What Jonah Would Do!
 - And God Knew Where Jonah Would Go!
 - And Why!
 - And So - Right In The Place Where Jonah:
 - Built His Booth!
 - God Had Already Prepared A Special Seed For A Special Plant To Do A Special Work!
 - What Jonah Did / Where Jonah Was:
 - Was No Surprise To The Lord!
 - And Through God's Own Providence:
 - By Preparing That Gourd:
 - Which Was Likely A Special Castor-Oil Plant, Which Can Grow Huge Leaves!
 - God Was Proving To Jonah:

- The Kind Of Heart He Has!
- Jonah Knew Some Things About God - Theologically!
 - See This Back In 4:2 - “For I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness!”
 - But Jonah Did Not Know These Things About God Personally!
 - God Was Now About To Make Himself Very Real To Jonah!
- And God’s Own Providence – In Preparing This Plant:
 - In The Right Place & At The Right Time:
 - Proved God’s Grace:
 - To Jonah!
 - That - God Is A Gracious God!
 - But - How Would Jonah Respond?
- Do You Also See That God Is Gracious To You:
 - Through His Providence In Your Life?
 - Even In The Small Things?
 - God Is Always Good To His People!
 - How Will You Respond To His Goodness & To His Grace?
 - God’s Goodness Is Also Seen:
- In His Power!
 - In Jonah’s Life!
 - What Else Did God Do?
 - 4:6 - “And Made It Come Up Over Jonah!”
 - God Caused That Special Plant:
 - To Sprout & To Grow & To Mature:
 - In A Miraculous & In A Powerful Way!
 - It All Happened In One Day!
 - In A “Jack & The Beanstalk!” Kind Of Way!
 - Beyond The Natural Growth Pattern Of This Kind Or Any Kind Of Plant!
 - But Why Did God Show His Power This Way?
 - Not To Judge - Which Is What Jonah Wanted!
 - But To Show Mercy To Jonah!
 - And To Teach Jonah An Important Lesson About His Heart!
 - And God’s Own Power – In Growing This Plant:
 - Proved God’s Mercy:
 - To Jonah!
 - That He Was In Fact - Merciful!
 - But - How Would Jonah Respond?
 - Do You Also See That God Is Merciful To You:
 - Through His Power In Your Life?
 - His Powerful Interventions!
 - A Provision / A Healing / An Answer!
 - Something Only God Could Do!
 - God Is Always Good To His People!
 - How Will You Respond To His Goodness & To His Mercy?
 - Let His Heart Affect Your Heart!
 - God’s Goodness Is Also Seen:
- In His Patience!
 - To Jonah!
 - What Else Did God Do?
 - 4:6 - “That It Might Be A Shadow Over His Head!”
 - Didn’t Jonah Make A Booth:
 - To Provide Shade From The Sun & The Heat?
 - Yes - In 4:5 - But It Was Obviously Not Enough! Not Sufficient!
 - But Remember - Jonah Was A Prophet:
 - Not A General Contractor!
 - But Instead Of Telling Jonah:
 - You Made Your Bed & Now You Will Sleep In It!
 - Which Is What We Would Have Done!

- And Sometimes Do!
- We Are So Impatient With The Faults Of Others, Aren't We?
- But God Knew What Jonah Needed:
 - Even More Than He Did!
 - And God Gave Him The Shade He Needed!
- And God's Own Patience – In Providing Shade:
 - Was Proof To Jonah:
 - That God Was: "Slow To Anger!"
 - But How Would Jonah Respond?
- Do You Also Realize That God Is "Slow To Anger"?
 - Through His Patience With You?
 - In So Many Ways & On So Many Levels!
 - Psalm 103:8 - "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy!"
 - God Is Always Good To His People!
 - How Will You Respond To His Goodness & To His Patience?
 - God's Goodness Is Also Seen:
- In His Pity!
 - For Jonah!
 - Why Did God Do All Of This For Jonah?
 - 4:6 - "To Deliver Him From His Grief!"
 - To Comfort Jonah In His Distress:
 - From The Heat & The Dust!
 - Even From The Situation:
 - Jonah Put Himself In!
 - And Even After All That Jonah Did & Felt:
 - Yet, The Lord Still Felt For Jonah!
 - God Felt Pity & Sympathy For Jonah!
 - With Love & Compassion!
 - Psalm 103:10 - "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities!"
 - Psalm 103:13-14 - "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. / For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust!"
 - And God's Own Pity For Jonah:
 - Proved To Jonah:
 - That God Is "Of Great Kindness!"
 - Even To Those Who Are Unkind To Him!
 - But How Would Jonah Respond?
 - Do You Also Realize That God Is "Of Great Kindness"?
 - Through His Pity & Compassion For You?
 - Seen Especially In:
 - The Sending Of The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Jesus Is Greater:
 - Than The Simple Shade From A Plant!
 - Jesus Is Our Complete Shelter!
 - Jesus Is Greater:
 - Then The Soothing From A Medicine!
 - Jesus Is Our Complete Healer!
 - God Is Always Good To His People!
 - How Will You Respond To His Goodness & His Kindness & To His Son?
 - Will Your Heart Reflect God's Heart?

Conclusion:

1. In The Last Part Of 4:6 - We Take Another Look At The Condition Of Jonah's Heart:
 - "So Jonah Was Exceeding Glad!"
 - But - For What? Not For The Lord!
 - But For: "The Gourd!" – The Plant!
 - And That's It!

- That Is All Jonah Saw!
- Jonah Knew About God In Theory!
 - Jonah Knew The Facts About God's:
 - Grace & Mercy & Longsuffering & Kindness!
 - But He Couldn't See It / Recognize It:
 - Even Though It Was Displayed To Him So Clearly!
- Jonah's Heart:
 - Did Not Yet Reflect:
 - God's Heart!
 - He Did Not Yet See:
 - God's Grace Through His Providence!
 - God's Mercy Through His Power!
 - God's Longsuffering Through His Patience!
 - God's Kindness Through His Pity!
- 2. So Jonah Was Not Yet Moved By God!
 - He Had Not Been Moved:
 - By God's Question!
 - In Verse 4 - Which Was Likely In A "Still, Small Voice!"
 - And He Was Not Even Moved:
 - By God's Provision!
 - With This Gourd / This Plant!
- 3. What Will It Take For God To Move You?
 - And To Move Me?
 - God Still Has Other Tools In His Tool-Box That He Can Use To Draw Your Heart Back To Himself!
 - Even Has He Did With Jonah!
 - As We Will Soon See!
 - But For Now:
 - Let The Condition Of God's Heart!
 - Impact & Change The Condition Of Your Heart!

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