

Jonah 4: 6-11 'The Unsearchable Love of God'

- The God who dealt so lovingly with Nineveh is the same Triune God who planned from all eternity the sacrifice of His Son on the cross for sinners.
- The conversion of Nineveh introduces Jonah and the people of God to the scope and plan of God to gather for His Son a people from all nations.
- Perhaps the question we need to face is, is Jonah's bitterness to God's graciousness to Nineveh reflected in us today?

I. Jonah's Vine 4:6-9

- Nothing touches a guilty conscience more effectively than further kindness.
 - Returning good for evil always gives the evil doer cause to reflect on what he had done and helps chip away at the excuses he thinks he has.
 - This is what God did to Jonah he gave him a gift in return for his bad attitude
- 1) 4: 6 **The Lord provided a vine:** God showed more grace and love to Jonah
 - 2) 4: 7 **Removal of the vine:** Jonah went from happiness to despair over a plant
 - 3) 4:9 **Probes the prophet's conscience:** God said "Do you do well to be angry?"

II. God's Lesson 4: 10-11

- Jonah was beyond all teaching. God continued to teach him and show him the meaning of free grace.
 - Jonah grumbled about the vine, condemning himself with his own mouth
 - God took it vine away, his true colors came out, and he learned a lesson
- 1) **Free grace** (v.10) vine was a gift but Jonah grumbled and he had no right to
 - 2) **God's love for the lost** (v.11) Jonah pitied the vine, why not God Nineveh
- Attitude of Jonah a believer, became institutionalised in the nation of Israel

III. Should you not be concerned?

- God's answers himself: **'should I not be concerned about this great city'**
- 1) Should we not be concerned *for a perishing world around us?*
 - 2) Is there a *commitment to practical evangelism?*
 - 3) Surely we should *all be confident in God's purpose to save?*
- The one who is greater than Jonah has come, taken on our flesh, lived among us, and borne our sins and secured full salvation for all who believe.