

# THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE SERVANT AND THE MISSIONARY

*Jonah 4:1-4 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?"*

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## INTRODUCTION:

*Early on in my years I ministry, I remember the unsettling words of one pastor I knew, "Ministry would be great if it weren't for people." Now this was said tongue-in-cheek, but there was an air of truth coming from his words and from his heart. He was confessing that there were times when he didn't enjoy serving the people that God had called him to serve. Such was the case with Jonah. But Jonah and these types of pastors aren't alone. You and I may indeed find ourselves bitter and resentful towards a people that God is calling us to reach.*

## RECAP OF JONAH:

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### I. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN JONAH'S ANGER AND THE LORD'S ANGER (4:1)



**KEY POINT:** Jonah's anger is quick, self-centered and increasing. God's anger is slow, God-centered and has subsided.

**APPLICATION:** (See Proverbs 30:4-5; Proverbs 19:11) Good sense starts with comprehending our own sin and what God has done to save us in Christ. We have been shown the manifold and immeasurable riches of God's grace and mercy and we can't even see believers in that same light. It's time to go back to the cross and see where God's anger towards us went. The Lord overlooked our offenses and sin because they were imputed to Christ. And if we're mad at a believer we must remember their sin was imputed to Christ to and Christ suffered for it. God took out His full anger upon Christ for their sin. We have don't to be angry anymore at believers. God's anger was sufficient,

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### II. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN JONAH'S COMPASSION AND GOD'S COMPASSION (4:2)

See Exodus chapters 1-34 but especially Exodus 34:6-9



**KEY POINT:** Can you see the incredible contrast between the nature of Jonah's compassion and God's. God's compassion is great and can cover the sins of the most wicked people. Jonah's compassion is gone.

**APPLICATION:** God was merciful to Israel, God was merciful to Jonah, God was merciful to Nineveh and God has been merciful to us. If you believe that Christ died for your sin and rose again to defeat death in order to give you eternal life with God, then you have been shown great mercy and compassion. You ought to demonstrate that to others and repent of Jonah-like sins.

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### III. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE OBJECT OF JONAH'S PITY AND THE OBJECT OF GOD'S PITY (4:3-4)



**KEY POINT:** Jonah had pity on himself and thought his death would bring relief. God's pity is on Nineveh.

**APPLICATION:** Let the magnitude of your sin and the greater magnitude of God's grace stir your affections for God so that you can't but help tell others about Jesus' salvation.

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#### CONCLUSION:

##### 1216-1217 - The Battle at Dover Castle

King Louis of France tried to undermine the castle of King John of England and failed.

Thus far, Jonah has been undermining the plan of God save Nineveh. When God spares Nineveh, Jonah complains and thus undermines God's integrity, compassion, grace and salvation plan.



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#### CALL TO ACTION FOR THE UNBELIEVER

Repent of your sin and believe that Christ was crucified, buried and risen again to bring sinners to God.

#### CALL TO ACTION FOR THE BELIEVER

In light of God's diverted anger, great compassion and immeasurable pity on us, we ought to pray for and seek the salvation of our enemies. In light of God's great salvation to us we ought to be slow to anger, compassionate and have mercy on believers who sin against us.