



From the message on May 11, 2025

Series Title: Missionally Engaged: A Matter of the Heart

Text: Jonah

### From the Message

Jonah knew God's character: gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Yet, he was furious when God forgave the wicked Ninevites. This Jonah 4 exposes our tendency to love mercy for ourselves while resenting it for others. Through God's patient questioning and gracious dealings with Jonah, we are invited to align our hearts with His — hearts full of compassion not just for the righteous, but for the rebellious, ignorant, and even offensive. Ultimately, Jonah's struggle is our struggle: Will we rejoice in God's mercy for all, or remain bitter when His grace exceeds our expectations?

### Opening Interaction

Share a time when God changed your mind on a certain topic, where you thought one way and now you think a different way because of his redirection in your life.

### Read Jonah 1-4 and discuss:

1. **When God's mission offends our sense of fairness** (Jonah 4:2):  
How does Jonah's knowledge of God's merciful character clash with his desire for justice against Nineveh? Why do we sometimes get frustrated when God is gracious to people we think don't deserve it?
2. **When theological knowledge fails to produce spiritual transformation** (Jonah 4:4-5):  
Why is it possible to know God's character and still resist or resent it? How does this reveal the difference between head knowledge of God and heart alignment with God? Where do you notice a gap between what you know about God and how you feel or act toward others?
3. **When God can handle our honest prayers** (Jonah 4):  
What does Jonah's prayer teach us about honesty in prayer, even when we are frustrated with God? How have you learned to bring your raw, unfiltered emotions to God in prayer?
4. **When God's mission is our mission in showing mercy to difficult people** (Jonah 4:9-11):  
How does God's merciful nature shape our calling to be merciful to others? What would it look like for us to reflect God's patience and compassion in our daily relationships? Who in your life right now is hard to love, and how might meditating on God's mercy change your posture toward them?