

THREE SPIRITUAL DANGERS FOR SELF-RIGHTEOUS SERVANTS

jonah 4



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, Pastor Preached on the three dangers for self-righteous servants in the conclusion of Jonah. We see that self-righteous servants are prone to anger towards God, can sit outside of the grace of God, and can ignore God's concern for the lost.

As self-righteous servants, we can desire for God to be compassionate and gracious (provided it is pointed towards us and not at the "them" in our lives who we see as undeserving of mercy and grace. Interestingly, Jonah sits outside the city desiring judgment to triumph over mercy, but we see Jesus ultimately proclaiming that mercy triumphs over judgment.

In the story of Jonah, we see how God has relented from his anger, but Jonah's anger actually skyrockets - and it actually exposes God's heart for Jonah - as God confronts Jonah, not wanting him to dwell in his own sin which is just as grievous as Nineveh's sin. God gives Jonah an object lesson to show what it's like to sit outside the grace of God.

Finally, we see how the danger of a self-righteous servant is the ultimate callousness towards the lost. We need to re-align ourselves to the concerns of God's heart so that we too can remember the grace that has been shown us as we show grace to the lost around us.



OUTLINE

1 PRONE TO ANGER TOWARDS GOD

When we become self righteous as Jonah was, we become prone to anger towards God's compassion and grace. We desire for God to be compassionate and gracious towards us, but desire judgment and wrath for those that we see as undeserving of His mercy and grace. When God shows grace towards the undeserving, it angers self-righteous people.

2 SIT OUTSIDE OF THE GRACE OF GOD

Jonah is given an object lesson to see what it's like to sit in the grace of God and outside the grace of God. God designates a leafy tree to grow overnight and give shade to Jonah and also designates a worm to attack the plant so that it withers. In this object lesson, God reminds Jonah that what drives us to the Lord is the grace of God.

3 IGNORE GOD'S CONCERN FOR THE LOST

Lastly, we can so easily ignore God's concern for the lost and so we must quickly align our hearts to the concerns of His heart. Jonah has become calloused to the lost, but through this particular event, Jonah is being reminded of how much God truly cares for the lost.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Where have we seen God's compassion and grace towards us? Where are we in danger of withholding that from others?

2

Where are we in danger of withholding that same compassion and grace from others?

3

Do you tend to gravitate towards mercy or judgment?

4

At what moments in our week do we settle in and find the grace of God working in our lives?

5

How can we align ourselves to God's heart for the lost? Do we find ourselves becoming calloused to God's concern for the lost?



BIG IDEA

In the story of Jonah, we see how God pursues Jonah and that ultimately the real point here is what happens to the sin of self-righteousness that can plague all of us. As we consider the dangers of self-righteousness, let's soften our hearts and align ourselves to Him - sitting in the seat of grace and extending that grace to all peoples (knowing that God cares for and is concerned for the lost).