

THE WHALE

The Problem With Grace

Jonah 3:10

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah 4:1

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.

Jonah 4:2

He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity."

1. NEVER SETTLE FOR A CRISIS DRIVEN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Jonah 4:2

He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity."

Jonah 4:3

Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

James 2:9

But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

Psalms 86:9

All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

1 John 2:11

But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded

his eyes.

WE CAN'T BE SELFISH WITH GOD'S GRACE

Jonah 4:4

But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Jonah 4:5

Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city.

Jonah 4:6

Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant.

2. GOD IS ALL ABOUT SECOND CHANCES

Jonah 4:7-8

But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

THE WORM IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE SHADE

Jonah 4:9-11

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead." But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

3. IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT YOU