

READ JONAH 3: 10-4, 11

The main focus of the Bible as far as our obedience is concerned is watchfulness of our thoughts, words and actions.

The fact that Jonah obeyed God's command to preach repentance to Nineveh is proof of some inward change.

Then we discover that he becomes angry at the idea that God would want to save such ungodly people.

4:4. The question is put to Jonah by God. *"Do you do well to be angry" (Is it right for you to be angry about this? NLT)*

Jonah appears to avoid the question and instead retreats to the edge of the city to see if God is really going to spare it.

He made a shelter to protect himself from the sun and God provided greater shade by the leaves of a rapidly growing plant.

Jonah's mood changed for the better until a worm and a scorching east wind destroyed the plant by God's design.

I often wonder how it is that my mood can be so changeable (like the Irish weather), sometimes caused by inconvenience and sometimes by irrational feelings. (*Psa.42:11*)

4:9. God asks the same question to Jonah. *"Is it right for you to be angry?"*

If Jonah can feel sorry that a plant died why shouldn't God feel sorry for a city in danger of being destroyed?

As I meditated on this passage there are some things that I have come to see to be of great importance.

Firstly, God is concerned about the destructive power of unwarranted anger in our hearts.

Secondly, God wants us to share in His compassion for the lost.

Thirdly, we have to learn to prioritize. What is more important mercy or misery?

WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 39

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Prayer and fasting** *Sunday 16th Sept.* Meeting will begin at 10.00AM and will finish at around 12 noon. Following a short break there will be extended prayer until 3pm
- ▶ **Baptismal service** in lower floor following meeting on *Sunday 23rd Sept*
Above dates are provisional and subject to change.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3-7 years old in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11)

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (*Hebrews 13:2*).