



3 ROADBLOCKS TO MISSIONS

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¹ But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. 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. ³ Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.'

⁴ But the Lord replied, 'Is it right for you to be angry?'

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. ⁶ Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant[a] 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. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ 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.'

⁹ 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.'

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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?'

Jonah 4

"BUT Jonah ran away."

"BUT Jonah had gone below deck where...he fell into a deep sleep."

"BUT the Lord provided a great fish..."

"BUT Jonah was greatly displeased..."

vs 11 – "But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. He prayed to the Lord, "O Lord, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That was why I flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, abounding to love, a God who relents from sending calamity."

#1. ETHNOCENTRICITY – PRIDE & PREJUDICE

⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, Revelation 7

#2. ENCAMPMENT – BLESSING VS BEING A BLESSING

⁴ Then I said, "I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again towards Your holy temple..."

Jonah 2 (NKJV)

⁷ "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer went up to You, into Your holy temple..."

Jonah 2 (NKJV)

⁶You have stayed long enough at this mountain. ⁷ Break camp and advance into the hill country...⁸ See I have given you this land. Go in and take possession...” Deuteronomy 1

² “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you. And in you, all the families of the earth will be blessed.” Genesis 12 (NKJV)

¹ “God be merciful to us and bless us and cause His face to shine upon us. ² That your way may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.” Psalm 67 (NKJV)

¹⁴ “Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you will spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed.” Genesis 28

#3. ENTANGLEMENT – FLESH VS SPIRIT

⁹ “God said to Jonah: Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?” “I do,” he said. “I am angry enough to die.” Jonah 4

¹⁰ “But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?” Jonah 4 (NIV, 1984)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Jonah 4:1-11, we see Jonah's strong reaction to God's compassion and forgiveness toward the people of Nineveh. What do you think Jonah's emotional response reveals about human nature and our attitudes towards forgiveness and second chances? How can we reconcile the concept of a just God with the idea of a merciful God who forgives even those who have done great wrong?
2. In what ways have we been too caught up with the *Top Line* and missed out on the *Bottom Line*? How have we prioritised our personal comfort and desires over the well-being of others and the broader purpose of God's work in the world?
3. When reflecting on your part in fulfilling God's mission to the nations, how do you see yourself actively engaging in the following?
 - () Personal involvement in the Missions field.
 - () Financial contributions in giving to Missions Fund regularly.
 - () Preaching the message of salvation to the unsaved by inviting them to church.