

Mercy: The prophet's displeasure
Jonah 4:1-4

I Jonah's displeasure with God Jonah 4:1

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.

A. God's mercy for others displeased Jonah

B. Jonah's displeasure led to intense anger

II. Jonah's justification for his displeasure Jonah 4:2,3

A. Justification for his displeasure (2)

2 So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You *are* a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

B. His displeasure led to suicidal ideations (3)

3 Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for *it is* better for me to die than to live!"

III. Jonah was graciously rebuked by God Jonah 4:4

4 Then the LORD said, "*Is it* right for you to be angry?"

A. The Lord's gentle rebuke

B. How do we free ourselves from self-righteous anger?

1. First, we have to be cut to the heart by the gospel.
2. Second, realize we have been chosen from the foundation of the world and have been adopted as sons and daughters.
3. Third, we must come to believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Conclusion

1. We need to guard ourselves from a judgmental spirit.
2. Our understanding of God's character strengthens our faith.
3. God's word is the lens by which we see life's circumstances.