

The Petulant Prophet

Jonah 4

Introduction

We would have ended the book at Ch.3 and wonderful success...

But God's servant is still alien to God's heart and needs private tutelage...

- v. 5 He builds a classroom... "outside the city walls"
- He waits
 - He does not like these people. It's the human condition.
 - He was more zealous for their destruction than their salvation.

- v. 2 From the beginning this was his problem...

He knows who God is...
...but he has a problem dealing with it in real life.

He can understand grace toward him. Just not those unlike him.

But God is patient with Jonah also.
But he must see his actions in their true light.

God will make him take a long look at himself...

- v. 6 A plant... to comfort from the heat.

He's happy!! Because of *his comfort*...
...not that half a million people were saved but...
...the air conditioning was working!

v. 9-11 God now interprets.

"You invested nothing in this plant. It was momentary.
Yet you had pity... Should not I have pity over
... half a million people??
... and children?
... and animals?"

"You like comforts more than souls, plants more than people."

Jonah is left "in school," eyeing the city...thinking on the lecture
"Shall I not have pity?"

This is the greatest missionary book in the Bible.

Here is the servant of God...

...with the message of God
...without the heart of God because
he followed his own emotions.

People's infractions cooled his pity.

"Because I loathe them, God must loathe them."

The Concluding Truths:

1. God is ever seeking lost men.
2. There are more problems with using His people than saving the lost.
3. Appearances and bias cannot color our thinking.