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JONAH – PART 26  
CH. 4:6-9

Jonah sits in the shade of his booth outside Nineveh hoping to see the city's destruction.

In verse 6 (KJV) it says, ***“And the LORD God (Yahweh Elohim) prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, (so) that it (would) be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from grief (grievous heat). So, Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.”*** Verse 7 says, ***“But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.”*** Verse 8 says, ***“and it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared (sent) a vehement east wind, and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished to himself to die, and said ‘It is better for me to die than to live.’ “***

God gives Jonah a lesson here. He grew a large gourd vine to give Jonah extra protection from the wilderness heat. Jonah was very pleased with this. Then overnight the vine was cut down by a worm (caterpillar) and withered, taking away the protection. Then the sun made a blistering hot day. On top of that, a hot, dry, east wind blew in strongly making it unbearable. He was weak, in misery, and just wished to die. He mourned the loss of the protective vine (gourd).

In verse 9 (NKJV) it says ***“and God said to Jonah, ‘Is it right for you to be angry about the (gourd vine) plant?’ and (Jonah) said, ‘It is right for me to be angry, even to death.’”*** God questions the prophet about his disturbed mental and emotional state. Jonah adamantly defends himself.

Often times when people's feelings are in turmoil, all they can focus on is their circumstances and their related negative feelings. The Holy Spirit of God tries to nudge their thoughts in a clearer direction, but they are so wrapped up in their circumstances that their “spiritual ears” are turned off. God does not wish for us to be caught up in such emotional turmoil. That is why Holy Spirit is called “The Comforter.” He brings the peace of Christ into our soul and spirit when we truly look to God in such times of trouble, anxiety, stress, or turmoil.

The Lord Jesus said in John 14:27 (NKJV), ***“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you, not (the kind of peace) as the world gives...let not your heart (spirit) be troubled.”*** True inner peace comes only from Jesus Christ, our Lord, our God, and the Savior of our soul.