

## TICKED OFF TO THE BITTER END

### Jonah 4:5–11

You'd never know it, but the prophet Jonah had everything going for him once he agreed to obey God's command to go to Nineveh. He had been rescued from drowning at sea, thanks to the mercy of God. In addition to that, rather than being set aside and punished for initially refusing to go, he was given a second chance to carry out his divine mission—a mission that was now dripping with grace. As he finally arrived at his destination, a city known for violence and brutality, he was protected from any hostile reaction as he began to proclaim God's message, a warning that "in 40 days Nineveh would be completely destroyed!" The pagan Gentiles not only heard him, they openly and unanimously repented—over 120,000 people who had been living in spiritual darkness (4:11). *What a revival!* But rather than being grateful and humbled by the response, Jonah pitched a fit! He was angry at the outcome—angry at God for not carrying out the plan to destroy them (3:10). His prejudice was so intense that he lashed out in anger—and he remained angry to the bitter end.

#### I. Jonah Selfishly Seeks Isolation (v. 5)

- A place to be alone
- A time of silence

#### II. God Sovereignly Pursues a Relationship (vv. 6–8a)

- A plant
- A worm
- A wind

#### III. Jonah's Rage—God's Response (vv. 8b–11)

- A self-serving mentality
- A heartbreaking reality