

LESSON ON ANGER

Jonah 4:1-11

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, **and he was very angry.**

2 And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray thee, O Lord, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

3 Therefore now, O Lord, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

4 Then said the Lord, **Doest thou well to be angry?**

5 So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.

6 And the Lord God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.

7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.

8 And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

9 And God said to Jonah, **Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd?** And he said, **I do well to be angry,** even unto death.

10 Then said the Lord, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:

11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

Proverbs 22:24-25 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

25 Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

Notice the five character traits Jonah lacked that resulted in his being an angry man:

2 And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray thee, O Lord, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a **gracious** God, and **merciful, slow to anger**, and of great **kindness**, and **repentest thee** of the evil.

1. He Was Not Gracious.

- Grace: Doing something for others that is not deserved.
- Jonah's love, unlike God's had to be earned.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us.

2. He Was Not Merciful.

- Mercy: (A variation from grace) It is not doing to others what is deserved.
- Grace can be bestowed by anyone; mercy can only be bestowed by the injured.
- Mercy always costs the one who bestows it.

Luke 18:13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

3. He Was Not Slow To Anger.

- Jonah was a “hothead”.
- Jonah did not have the trait of being “longsuffering”.
- Anger is the first symptom of selfishness.

Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention:

Ephesians 4:1-2 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,
² With all lowliness and meekness, with **longsuffering**, forbearing one another in love;

4. He Was Not A Greatly Kind Man.

- Unlike God, Jonah was not in the habit of doing good for others. (Another trait of selfishness)
- The sailors were even kinder than Jonah.
- “Wanting and liking to do good things and to bring happiness to others.” *Webster*

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

5. He Was Not Easily Persuaded.

- God twice attempted to get Jonah to consider the error of his way.
- God in the same manner tried to convince angry Cain of the error of his way.
- Repentance by the Ninevehites was not enough for Jonah; he wanted a pound of flesh.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Conclusion:

Managing anger is not a moment's decision not to get mad; it's a constant practicing of these five Godly traits. It is becoming Godlike or conforming to the high standard in Christ Jesus.