

What Are You Concerned About?
God's Concerns Should Be Our Concerns
11/13/2016 Sunday AM

Scripture Verses: Jonah 4, 2 Peter 3:9,

Sermon Notes

- Two weeks ago I spoke about Evaluating Your Comfort Zone and really looking at God's expectation of us being "fishers of men."
- The Bible is clear that we should be reaching out to people and leading them to Christ.
- We are seeing less and less of this in our world today and the reason for that is a lack of concern on our part.
- This morning, I want to ask you What Are You Concerned About?
- What are the things that keep you up at night or the things that you spend the most time worrying about?
- Are these things that God is chiefly concerned about or are they worldly and material concerns?

Jonah 3:10 - 4:1-11

¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

¹But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD, "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴But the LORD replied, "Have you any right to be angry?"

⁵Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶Then the LORD God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine. ⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live." ⁹But God said to Jonah, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?" "I do," he said. "I am angry enough to die." ¹⁰But the LORD said, "You have been **concerned** about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be **concerned** about that great city?"

Context

- So Jonah was told by God to go to Nineveh and preach to the people about their wickedness, but he tried to run away from God. He then finds himself in a bad storm that God sent and is thrown overboard by the crew in order to save their boat from God's wrath. Then Jonah is swallowed by a whale that God sent and is in the belly of the whale for 3 days before being spit out. **Jonah 1**
- After all of that, finally Jonah goes to Nineveh and does what God told him to do. He preached to the people and prophesied that in 40 days the city would be overthrown. This got the attention of the king and he issued a fast for the entire city as well as a decree that they call on God and give up their evil ways. The city repented and God did not overthrow the city. **Jonah 3**
- What we see in chapter 4 is that Jonah is angry that God showed compassion on the city, why is that?
- Jonah was so distraught that he wanted to die, v. 3.
- We see in vv. 5-8 that Jonah went out and made a shelter to stay in while he waited to see what would happen to the city.
- God provided a vine to give Jonah shade and something to rest his head on and Jonah was pleased with it, but the next day God sent a worm to eat the vine and it died. Again Jonah wanted to die, v.8

What Are You Concerned About?
God's Concerns Should Be Our Concerns
11/13/2016 Sunday AM

- V.9 God asked Jonah, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?" and Jonah replied, "I do," "I am angry enough to die."
 - God then takes this opportunity to teach Jonah a powerful lesson that everyone should learn very quickly.
 - Vv.10-11 Jonah had been concerned about the vine, but he did not do anything to make it grow or nurture it.
 - Nineveh was a city of over 120,000 people that God created in His own image and in His own likeness.
 - These people had turned from God and were lost, hint why He said, they "cannot tell their right hand from their left."
 - God then asked a pointed question, "should I not be concerned about that great city?"
 - God asked Jonah two times in v. 4 and v. 9 did he have the right to be angry.
 - Basically what God was teaching Jonah was that whatever right he thought he had to be angry or concerned, God had even more of a right.
 - God was concerned about the people in the city and their souls.
 - Jonah wanted to see the city punished and was not concerned about seeing the people come to repentance and seeing their relationship with God restored.
 - God on the other hand is gracious and merciful and he showed compassion on Nineveh because he wanted to see those 120,000 people repent.
 - Jonah was more worried about his vine than he was about the hearts and souls of God's people.
 - Definitely Jonah's concerns were not God's concerns.
-
- **What about you this morning? Are you more like Jonah or more like God?**
 - Do we put ourselves in the seat of judgment and become angry with God if He doesn't punish people like we think they should be punished?
 - Do we get made when God saves someone that we think is undeserving of God's salvation?
 - I think God would ask us the same question, "Do you have a right...?"
 - We must spend time making sure that our concerns are lining up with God's concerns.
 - God is concerned about reconciling this world back to him and to seeing the entire world come to a saving knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

- Is that your heart this morning? Does it concern you that there may be people you know that are lost?
- What about all of those people that are out there right now that do not know Jesus Christ?
- Does it concern you to the point that it drives you to action where you step out of your comfort zone and talk to people about Jesus?
- Or maybe you are like Jonah, you want people to get what they deserve, which is God's wrath.
- If that is you this morning, I hope you understand that everyone of us deserves God's wrath and punishment.
- However, because He is concerned about us, He administers grace and mercy to us daily.
- Shouldn't we be concerned enough, and thankful enough to do the same?