



## What's Really Inside Jonah 4:1-11

## Diagnosing rattle inside an engine

- You can make some good informed guesses
- You will really never know for sure unless you begin to break it down and see what is going on inside
- Or maybe taking a biopsy of something inside your body
- **Jeremiah 17:9** “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?”

## Diagnosing rattle inside an engine

- **Matthew 15:19** “For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.”
- This physical heart of desires does not change at salvation, that old sinful, rebellious nature
- It will hide itself behind good deeds, church membership, cleaning itself up a bit, but always looking for a way to deceive you and those around you

## Diagnosing rattle inside an engine

- **Ezekiel 36:26-27** 26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.  
27 And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.
- Jesus called this being “born again or anew”

## Diagnosing rattle inside an engine

- Because our fleshly heart (desires) has so much potential for evil, there will be times God will allow events to happen that will show us what is really in our heart
- **Deuteronomy 8:2** Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

## Diagnosing rattle inside an engine

- **Deuteronomy 13:1-3** 1 If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder, 2 and if the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, and the prophet says, “Let us follow other gods” (gods you have not known) “and let us worship them,” 3 you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul.

## Diagnosing rattle inside an engine

- We see this also in the testing of Peter and his three denials of knowing Christ
- God is showing them and us today what is really in them and us
- We will see what is really in Jonah's heart this morning from his response to God's grace and mercy shown to Nineveh

## Jonah 4:1-11 NIV

- 1 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing 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. 3 Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.” 4 But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

## Jonah 4:1-11 NIV

- 5 Jonah had gone 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.  
6 Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant.

## Jonah 4:1-11 NIV

- 7 But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. 8 When 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." 9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

## Jonah 4:1-11 NIV

- 10 But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. 11 And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

## Jonah's Response

- Kind of a surprising response from Jonah
  - God showing Jonah grace and mercy from his rebellious heart
  - God miraculously saving him from the sea with an ordained giant fish
  - God giving Jonah's ministry a miraculous response
  - Not striking him with lightening now

## **We must be careful not to slide back into our old sinful ways of thinking and living**

- It only took less than 40 days for Jonah to slide back into his rebellious attitude
- Nothing really bad happened to Jonah physically
- He was just disappointed with God
- Jonah's complaint of God's mercy revealed his rebellious heart

## **We must be careful not to slide back into our old sinful ways of thinking and living**

- The old sinful nature will try to manipulate God and justify our sinful desires
- **Vs 2** “Isn’t this what I said, Lord
  - I tried to warn you God, but you would not listen
- **Vs 2** “That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing”
  - I tried to help you out God, but you would not let me go

## **We must be careful not to slide back into our old sinful ways of thinking and living**

- The old sinful nature will try to manipulate God and justify our sinful desires
- **Vs 2** “I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God”
  - I knew this was possible because of who you are, so I tried to protect your name and your people

## **We must be careful not to slide back into our old sinful ways of thinking and living**

- The old sinful nature will try to manipulate God and justify our sinful desires
- **Vs 3** “Now, Lord, take away my life”
  - Now Lord if you will not listen to me just take away my life
  - This is the ultimate form of manipulation

## **We must be careful not to slide back into our old sinful ways of thinking and living**

- By letting his old nature loose again, Jonah really felt this way
- This is the deceitfulness of flesh and boastful pride of life
- **1st John 2:16** For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

## **We must be careful not to slide back into our old sinful ways of thinking and living**

- Why was Jonah mad?
  - He could not change God's attitude toward sinners
  - He could not shape God into the image he wanted
  - You have embarrassed me before Your people and Your temple
- To all these charges God would respond with, "Yes, I know."

## **We must be careful not to slide back into our old sinful ways of thinking and living**

- To you Jonah it seems unfair, but you have your eyes looking inward and not outward to Me
  - Remember you are My prophet not Israel's
  - You were called to speak My words, not yours or anyone else's
  - This is my world and not yours
  - You are mine not your own

## **We must be careful not to slide back into our old sinful ways of thinking and living**

- This is the same thing all the Apostles had to learn
  - They had their own wants and desires
  - They thought they had Jesus all figured out and how everything would work, and it did not have any room for a cross

## **We must be careful not to slide back into our old sinful ways of thinking and living**

- But in the end, this is God's world, and they must fashion their thoughts and desire around God's
- Just like Jonah we are God's people
  - Called to be a kingdom of priests , a holy nation
  - Called to be His ambassador
  - Respond to Him and others as He desires

## **We must be careful not to slide back into our old sinful ways of thinking and living**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:20** So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"
- **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

## **We need to be challenged at times for us to know we really want what God wants**

- God, you have embarrassed me before the people of Israel
  - I prophesized destruction would come to Nineveh, and it did not happen
  - I am proven a false prophet by Your standards
  - I will be rejected and scorned in Israel

## **We need to be challenged at times for us to know we really want what God wants**

- Jonah's response tells us he never really wanted what God did
- He went through the motions, made the proclamation as God instructed but secretly hoped Nineveh would not repent

## **We need to be challenged at times for us to know we really want what God wants**

- How do you know you really want what God wants?
  - The only way is through testing
  - Events in our life that will rip you heart out so you can see

## **We need to be challenged at times for us to know we really want what God wants**

- In **Acts 10** Peter is given a challenge to what he holds as truth as a good Jewish believer
  - God's desire is to now move out to the Gentiles
  - God has Cornelius and family ready for salvation, but they need to hear the truth of the Gospel
  - He chooses Peter to go to them, enter into their home and tell them the Gospel of Jesus Christ

## **We need to be challenged at times for us to know we really want what God wants**

- This is very similar to Jonah's
  - God wants to bless the Gentiles just like He did the Jews
  - This was extremely difficult for Peter to get his mind around

## We need to be challenged at times for us to know we really want what God wants

- **Acts 10:34-35** 34 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism  
35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

## **We need to be challenged at times for us to know we really want what God wants**

- **Acts 10:46-48** 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, 47 “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

## We need to be challenged at times for us to know we really want what God wants

- Peter was called to explain his actions
  - **Acts 11:1-3** The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him 3 and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”
- Do you really want what God wants?

## When life gets challenging look for the hand of God, even in the smallest of details

- **Romans 8:28** And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.
- But if you are not looking expectantly for the good then you will miss it and think God is not true to His Word

## **When life gets challenging look for the hand of God, even in the smallest of details**

- Jonah missed one of the greatest revivals of all times
- Jonah missed the marvelous truth of God's desire for all peoples
- All Jonah could see was what appeared to be negatives to him
- God is still responding to His rebellious servant with grace and mercy when it would be easy to apply judgement

## When life gets challenging look for the hand of God, even in the smallest of details

- God is trying to reach Jonah's hard heart
- **Vs. 6** God ordained a vine to grow quickly
- **Vs. 7** God ordained a worm to kill the vine
- **Vs. 8** God ordained a scorching east wind and blazing hot sun
- Why? – To show Jonah his hardened heart and God's heart of grace and mercy

## When life gets challenging look for the hand of God, even in the smallest of details

- **Vs. 10** But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight.”
  - Jonah you are concerned about things that only last for a brief period
  - You loved and desired that vine because it satisfied you

## When life gets challenging look for the hand of God, even in the smallest of details

- **Vs. 11** And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”
- Should I not be concerned about things that are eternal

## **When life gets challenging look for the hand of God, even in the smallest of details**

- God corrects Jonah for his lack of compassion
- God clarifies His love and compassion
- God is not a respecter of persons
- The book ends abruptly with a question
- I'd like to think Jonah got it and provided us an example of God's marvelous grace and mercy to unworthy individuals



## What's Really Inside Jonah 4:1-11