



Series: Running From God

Sermon: Part 6: Undeserved Compassion

Date: Sunday, October 20th, 2024

A _____ heart: Where someone's loyalties or affections are split between many things, including people

Instead of God having priority and being in the center of our lives, we have allowed others things to have priority over God and those things are now at the center of our lives.

Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do. (James 1:8 NLT)

Jonah had enjoyed God's mercy when that mercy was extended to him when he failed, but now Jonah resents it when that same mercy is extended to others who failed, especially those he hates.

What Caused Jonah To Have A Divided Heart?

1. Jonah's _____
2. Jonah's toxic _____
3. Jonah's _____

Hearts that serve more than one god, will always create instability and inconsistency in life.

"Just kill me now, Lord! I'd rather be dead than alive" The Lord replied [to Jonah], "Is it right for you to be angry?" 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. 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 4:3-6)

God Provided The Plant To Jonah To:

1. Provide physical shade for Jonah in the hot desert heat
2. Deliver Jonah from his internal misery

But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. (Jonah 4:7)

The plant symbolizes God's _____, whereas the worm symbolizes God's _____.

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." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he [Jonah] said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead." 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.” “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 4:8-11)

If we turn to God in repentance, God will always respond with _____.

Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that His kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? (Romans 2:4 NLT)

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when He held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for He was looking ahead and including them in what He would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate His righteousness, for He Himself is fair and just, and He makes sinners right in His sight when they believe in Jesus. (Romans 3:25-26)

“Should I not have concern for _____, who cannot tell their right hand from their left?”

An _____ heart: Where our trust is in God alone and not in any other substitute gods that steal our loyalty and affections away from the Real God who loves us

Bottom Line: Whenever we turn to God in repentance, God will always respond with mercy.

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. *In what ways is your heart divided when it comes to God? What are the substitute gods and idols that you are looking to for your identity, significance, comfort, purpose, and salvation?*
2. *How does knowing that God was willing to die on the cross for you, even though you continuously sinned against Him, change you?*
3. *Think of someone that you hate. Are you able to extend mercy and compassion to them in spite of what they have done? Knowing what God has done for you, how does His mercy for you change the way that you view and treat that person?*

Songs used in service: House Of The Lord (Phil Wickham), Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Thomas Chisholm), No Longer Slaves (Jonathan David & Melissa Helsler), Chain Breaker (Zach Williams), Walking Free (Micah Tyler)

Any prayer requests?

-----Tear Here -----

Name _____ **Date:** _____ **Email:** _____

What can we be praying for you about?