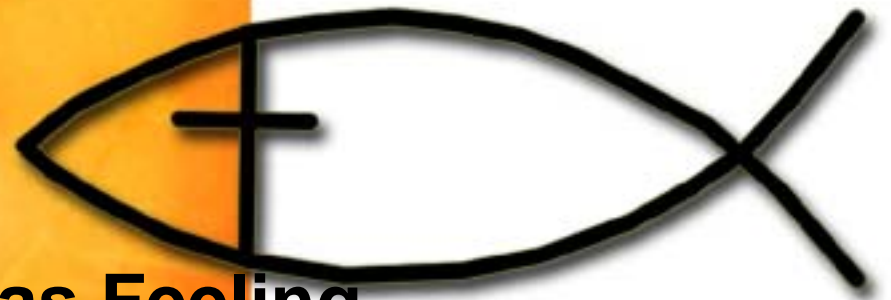




*Losing our
First Love*

Jonah 4



Series: Losing that Christmas Feeling

Jonah 4:1-11 (NKJV)

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.

2 So he prayed to the Lord, and said, "Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You *are* a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

Jonah 4:1-11 (NKJV)

3 Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for *it is* better for me to die than to live!"

4 Then the Lord said, "*Is it* right for you to be angry?"

5 So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city.

Jonah 4:1-11 (NKJV)

6 And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant.

7 But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered.

Jonah 4:1-11 (NKJV)

8 And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "*It is better for me to die than to live.*"

9 Then God said to Jonah, "*Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?*" And he said, "*It is right for me to be angry, even to death!*"

Jonah 4:1-11 (NKJV)

10 But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night.

11 And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left--and much livestock?"

1. The First Sign is our Unwillingness

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.

Unwilling

To celebrate the change in Nineveh

To give God glory

To continue in His service

2. The Second Sign is our Lack of Fear of God

2 So he prayed to the Lord, and said, "Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country?

Lord I told you so

**Lack of:
Respect
Reverence**

3. The Third Sign is not Appreciating God's Provision

6 And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant.

Jonah appreciated the plant and seemed to appreciate the fish.

Jonah's focus was on the physical and not the spiritual provision

4. The Fourth Sign is Ignoring Our Spiritual Condition

9 Then God said to Jonah, "*Is it* right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "*It is* right for me to be angry, even to death!"

Jonah's priorities show his need for spiritual awakening

Christmas and Jonah

Christmas and Us

Revelation 2:2-4 (NKJV)

2 I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

4 Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

Christmas and Jonah *Christmas and Us*

This Christmas let us not lose our first love

Christ

Living in and through His love