


# Jonah: Perplexing Prophet

## Part 5 Jonah Pouts

# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

A publication of  the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

2021.3.4&7



## Questions for Community Group Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- In chapter 2, Jonah **begged mercy for himself**. Look up the definition of mercy. What is it?

In Jonah 4:2, the prophet **feared God might show mercy to others**. Do you think that's wrong—and, if so, **why exactly**? Be specific. What does the Bible call someone with double standards?

- Make a list of the sins found in Romans 1:28-32. (Did you find all twenty-five of them?) Look up in a dictionary any you aren't sure of (it wouldn't hurt to look up the ones you think you are!).

From what you know about Nineveh (or, see wikipedia), put a "✓" next to those things they likely did.

Now, assign a "badness number" to each sin: **1** = absolutely wicked **2** = really bad **3** = naughty

What additional actions, not listed in Romans 1:28-32, do you think **ought to have** made the list?

Now, circle the word "do" or "practice" (it appears three times in 1:32 and three more times in 2:1-3).

What claim does Romans 2:1 make about the actions listed in 1:28-32? **How can that be?!**

What should a person who is guilty of such sins do?

How must we view and treat other transgressors?

**Ready to shed your "Jonah persona"?**

For free biblical counseling, e-mail:  
**BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com**

## Application-Challenge

- How's your attitude? Bitter? Angry? Resentful?  
I have wonderful news for you—you can dump it today with absolutely no loss.
- Are you consistent? Do you put people on a performance basis?  
Would you want God to treat you the way that you treat others?
- How's your perspective? Are you working on things that are permanent or perishing?



# Sermon Summary (Key Text: Jonah 4)

In Jonah chapter 3 we see the prophet ministering the message which God commanded and the people of Nineveh repenting and responding in faith. If the book would have concluded there, it would have been a happy ending. But the climax of the story comes in chapter four—for the Lord is not through teaching his prophet or us. In chapter three, God ministers **through** Jonah; in chapter four, he ministers **to** Jonah. In this chapter, God teaches three courses designed to meet specific needs in the lives of his servants.

**[1] A course in attitude** (v. 1-4). Jonah was very displeased and became angry. What displeased Jonah? Jonah was displeased that the Ninevites repented; he was angry at God for not destroying the city (3:10). Have you ever been ticked off at God? Jonah thought that the Jews ought to have a monopoly on the grace of God, but even when he was “back in his own country” he knew that God wanted to forgive the Ninevites. Jonah knew five things: God is gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, abundant in loving-kindness, and that he relents concerning calamity (v. 2). Jonah had correct theology—it was the practice of his faith that wasn’t right. Jonah did the right thing, but with the wrong attitude. We can have the same problem: we can attend church services every week, be in a community group, and serve in a ministry. It is possible to be doing all the right things, without your heart really being into it. That was Jonah’s problem—is it yours too? Jonah was so angry with God that he asked God to take his life (v. 3). So God asked a penetrating question: “Do you have good reason to be angry?” (v. 4). Any resentful, bitter people here today? Anyone ticked off at God because he took from you something that you love? The church contains many bitter, hostile, resentful people. The biblical solution is found in Ephesians 4:31-32. We often blame God for the choices others have made or for the consequences that come from our own choices. God did not make anyone act as he did—he allows us to express what is in our hearts. Our attitude should be the same as Jesus’ attitude towards us: forgiveness.

**[2] A course in consistency** (v. 5-8). In v. 4, God asked Jonah a question: “Do you have good reason to be angry?” In v. 5, Jonah answered it non-verbally: he went outside the city, hoping to see God zap it! Nothing happened to Nineveh; instead, God went to work on the prophet! To do this, God appointed three things as teaching tools to get Jonah’s attention: a plant (v. 6), a worm (v. 7), and a wind (v. 8). Jonah was extremely happy about the plant. It shaded him from the hot sun. Notice the contrast between v. 1 and v. 6. Jonah was greatly displeased (at God’s mercy to the Ninevites) but extremely pleased about his own comfort! Question: What makes you angry? What makes you happy? These two questions show what sort of a person you are. Are you turned on by things, but turned off by lost people? That was Jonah’s problem. Is it yours? Next, God decides to bug Jonah—withering the plant (v. 7) and sending a scorching wind (v. 8)! These are all teaching tools; God is saying to Jonah: “You are feeling physically what you ought to be feeling spiritually.” Jonah should have prayed to be forgiven, but instead he foolishly prays to die. (By the way, this is the only **unanswered** prayer in the book. Do you ever **thank** God for unanswered prayer? It’s a good thing you or I aren’t in charge of the universe—I think we would have answered Jonah’s prayer! “Jonah—your wish is my command! Zap!”) God wanted **both** Nineveh and Jonah to repent, but Jonah didn’t...yet. What is the point of this passage? God is gracious, and Jonah should be too. And God wants us to love others in the way that he loves us. He wants us to want to treat others in the way that we want God to treat us. Do you put others on a performance basis? If God treated us this way, we’d be hopelessly lost—if not already in hell! Instead, God says to us: “You have more to learn, dear son. I’m not finished with you yet; I want you to learn to love others the way I love you.”

**[3] A course in perspective** (v. 9-11). Jonah remained angry, so God asked him the same question (v. 9, cf. v. 4). But now Jonah’s even angrier, and he answers God: “I have good reason to be angry, even to death.” (Amazing what a little conviction can do!) God said: “You had compassion on a plant—should I not have compassion on a city with more than 120,000 children?!” (v. 11) Plants perish; people are permanent. Can **you** distinguish between the perishable and the permanent? Where are you putting your time, your energy, your bucks? When we develop an eternal perspective, we come to realize that many of the things we obsess over are perishing. Building into peoples’ lives spiritually is permanent. Jonah ran from God. Are you?

## Talking To God About This Week’s Message

*“Heavenly Father, today I want to be a ‘doer’ of the Word, and not just a ‘hearer’. Amen.”*

# PointMan Breakfast at the fire pit!

- Saturday, March 13
- 9<sup>00</sup>-10<sup>30</sup>am
- Just \$10
- Bring a camp chair
- Chick-fil-a breakfast (gluten free option available)
- To register: [tcc.org](http://tcc.org) Keyword: **PointMan**



TIME IS  
**RUNNING OUT!**



## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

**"Five Question Bible Study"** (see page below) *is a simple way to study any passage. We can use it to learn the process God uses to change us from the inside out...*

**Monday**—Read 1 John 3:1-3. What's **already** true, **not yet** true, and what do **we** do **now**?

**Tuesday**—Read Romans 12:1-2. What are we **not** to do (v. 2)? What are we **to** do (v. 1 & 2)?

**Wednesday**—Read Romans 6:5-7. What is your **new identity**? What is **certain** about you?

**Thursday**—Read Romans 6:12-14. List all of the **commands** in this passage.

**Friday**—Read Romans 6:17-19. What **necessarily** results from presenting your body to God for righteousness?

**Saturday**—***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord with your church family,***  
read **Luke 4:1-13.**

Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]