

Context: The 1st Call from the Lord to Jonah: Jonah 1:1-2: the Word of Yahweh came to Jonah to go to Nineveh. Instead, Jonah goes to Joppa and then boards a ship for Tarshish (Spain).

>Irony #1: Jonah is a prophet who doesn't want to prophesy to the wicked Assyrians. 2 times it says of Jonah in v3, that he was fleeing "from the presence of the Lord."

>Irony #2: The captain of the ship asks Jonah to call upon his God, v6. Jonah was asleep while the storm was raging (that came from the Lord, v4).

>Irony #3: The lot fell on Jonah, identifying him as the reason for the trouble at sea, 1:7-9.

- Jonah is thrown into the sea (1:15), the waves cease (1:15), and the fish swallows Jonah (1:17), Jonah cries out to the Lord (2:2-9), and the fish vomits Jonah on dry land (2:10).

The 2nd Call from the Lord to Jonah: Jonah 3:1-2, Jonah is to travel to Nineveh to preach the message that God spoke to Him. The message Jonah preaches: "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" (3:4).

- The people of Nineveh believed God (3:5-7), proclaimed a fast, put on sackcloth, and the king laid aside his robe, did as the rest, in sackcloth and ashes, and the city repented and God relented from bringing disaster to their city of 120,000 people (3:10, 4:11).
- Why did Jonah refuse to go? He had confidence in God's ability to save, forgive, and show mercy and kindness (4:2).
- We need to ask ourselves? Do we want others to perish and go to hell?
 - God showed compassion to the sailors (1:16),
 - God showed compassion to the Ninevites (3:10),
 - God showed compassion to Jonah, rescuing him from drowning and the fish (1:17, 2:10),
 - God showed compassion to Jonah again, providing a plant to shade him, even as God then caused a worm to kill the plant and an east wind and the sun beat on Jonah's head (4:7-8), and
 - God showed compassion to Jonah, to help him deal with his anger towards God's mercy and the salvation shown to Assyria.
 - Jonah had a burning anger and was furious for God's commission and compassion for the Ninevites (4:1,9).

>Irony #4: Jonah desired death rather than life, similar to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:4 after killing the prophets of Baal. Death is preferable to them even after great victory and demonstration of God's power to save and show His power.

>Irony #5: Jonah wants to watch the city be destroyed, 4:5.

- Jonah proceeded only one day into the city (three days of walking was its size). He proclaimed that destruction was coming in 40 days (3:4). Jonah doesn't even stick around to see them repent (3:5-9).
- Jonah felt that God was evil for showing mercy as show by Jonah being furious, 4:1.
- The text uses the word "haraah" the Hebrew word for "evil" throughout the text: Jonah 1:7, 8, 3:8, 10, and 4:2. This word being used throughout would help the reader see that the sailors, Ninevites and Jonah all reacted with wickedness and evil.
- Jonah was happy when the plant shaded him (4:6) but was angry to the point of wanting to die when the plant died with the sun and wind beat upon him.

Further Discussion and Application

God gives us His point of view in Jonah 4:11. Should God not care about millions who are lost without the knowledge of God? Should God not also provide knowledge of sin and wickedness to those who would hear, would turn from their sins and repent?

Do we care for the lost around us? How can we pursue the lost in our lives? What are 5 things that we can do to increase our outreach to those who are lost? What can we do with our families? What can we do in our business/city life? What can we do in our churches? What can we do when new people visit our church?

The context of Luke 6:36 is the treatment towards those who are our enemies. God demonstrated His love for us, that while we were in sin, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). How does God show mercy to those who don't deserve it? How should we show mercy to those we discussed in the previous question?

What is our motivation in showing compassion to the lost? How did God show compassion to Abraham? To Jacob? To Joseph? To Gideon? To Israel during the time of the judges? To Hannah? To Nineveh in Jonah's time? To the exiles in Daniel's time? To the those that returned with Ezra and Nehemiah? To the nation of Israel and Jerusalem in Zechariah 14? To the Gentiles of Romans 1:1-17? To those who find themselves in the Tribulation of Revelation (Rev. 7:4, 9, 14, 11:13)?

We as believers must have an honest and biblical view of our own sin and acceptance and be convinced that we were wretched and lost and God sent His Son and regenerated our hearts (Tit. 3:5). How does the proper view of our salvation help to obey the command of the Lord found in Eph. 4:32 towards our brothers and sisters in Christ (ecclesiology) and the lost of Romans 12:17-21 (evangelistic outreach and evangelism)?