



A Study of Jonah

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Day 9: Jonah 4:5-11 - Not What We Deserve

Read Mathew 6:7-15. In the Lord's Prayer, how do we ask God to forgive us? What standard do we have for forgiving others? Why is it important to do so?

Read Colossians 3:12-14. Because we have been chosen and set apart by God as His beloved children, what should our lives look like? Why must we forgive? With what attitude should we do all these things?

Read Eph. 4:31-32. Knowing we've been forgiven by God through Christ, what should we do?

Read Matthew 5:43-47. How does Jesus tell us we should treat our enemies and those who persecute us? If we only love those who love us, is there any difference between us and those who are not followers of Christ?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Did God call the strong and wise to be His people? Who did He call? Why did He call them? What is the only "thing" we can boast in? Personalize this a bit: did God call you because you were so wise and strong and powerful? Whose glory is God highlighting in choosing you? How should that impact your interactions with others?

Read Romans 9:13-16. What does Paul vehemently deny exists on God's part? Can we exert ourselves enough to receive God's mercy? What is His mercy dependent on?

Read Proverbs 3:27. According to this proverb, what should we strive to provide when we are able? What "good" might you be withholding from someone? Is this something that you are sinfully withholding? (It isn't a sin to withhold relationship from an abusive person; but what about withholding grace from "that person" who rubs you the wrong way? You don't have to be best friends, but are you treating the respectfully or with disdain?)

As you spend time with God today, thank God for His mercy on your life, knowing that you have done (and could do) nothing to earn it. Ask Him to help you remember that the only thing you contributed to your salvation was the sin that made it necessary, and then praise Him for His grace! We have been forgiven much! Ask Him to help you to learn from Jonah, to learn how not to react to others whom God has compassion on. Praise Him for His wisdom, and ask Him to help you to accept His authority with humility and to trust in Him today and every day.