

WITHERING ON THE INSIDE

JONAH 3-4 – ERIC SIMPSON– MAY 20, 2018

Jonah 1 – You can run from God but you can't outrun God.

Jonah 2 – When the pain of your current circumstances exceeds the pain of change—things start changing.

Jonah 3:1-2

¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

sheniy [sha'nye] = again, second time

quwm [koom] + yalak [ya-lock] = go now, go urgently, go suddenly

Jonah 3:3-5

³ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city—a visit required three days. ⁴ On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

Jonah 3:10

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah 4:1

But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry.

"You can safely assume you've created God in your own image when it turns out God hates all the same people you do." – Anne Lamott

"...it is in our virtuous behavior that we are liable to the gravest sins. It is while we are being good that we have the chance of being really bad. It is in this context of being responsible, being obedient, that we most easily substitute our will for God's will, because it is so easy to suppose that they are identical...the story of Jonah obedient is far more unattractive than Jonah disobedient." – Eugene Peterson

Jonah 4:9-11

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?" "I do," he said.

"I am angry enough to die." ¹⁰ But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

