

Heart Check

Series on Jonah

- True Story
- Chapter 1 – God Calls, Jonah Runs, God Pursues
- Chapter 2 – Jonah saved, prays, willing to be obedient
- Chapter 3 – Jonah travels, 8 word sermon, repentance
- Today – Jonah waits for the outcome

Heart Check

“But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. He prayed to the LORD, “O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.” But the LORD replied, “Have you any right to be angry?” Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. Then the LORD God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine.”

Heart Check

“But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered. When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live." 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." 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. 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?” Jonah 4

Heart Check

1. Exposed Heart

- Jonah just witnessed a miracle
- goes to hill – watch, they will probably blow it
- they don't know anything – will blow this chance
- 'angry', 'greatly displeased' – 'exceedingly evil to him'
- literally – to burn, spill over – heart is offended
- tantrum – I knew this would happen!
- just kill me – my reputation gone, undeserving people saved, I would rather die!

Heart Check

- interestingly Jonah feels he knows better than God
 - knows God's character
 - knows God's rules for right living
 - knows God's deliverance – sovereignty
 - does not visit King, give instructions, teach people
 - does not share information, give hope
- literally filled with burning anger that the sworn enemy of God's chosen are repenting, and that God might accept that!

Heart Check

2. God's Reality Check

- look at the character of God revealed
 - gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in love, relents from sending calamity.
- God speaks to Jonah
 - 'have you any right to be angry?'
 - maybe you best remember who is in control here
- God gives an object lesson to the prophet
 - vine that gives great pleasure
 - takes away the creature comforts

Heart Check

- same question – do you have any right?
- reply – you bet I do
- Jeremiah 18:5-10
- Daniel 2:21
- Romans 13:1-2
- John 19:11
- God has the authority, ability, and is in control.
- plant an object lesson – what you have is from my hand, I will give and take as I decree and desire – you need to align yourself with me

Heart Check

3. You Need A Heart Change

- you have been concerned about:
 - my people and their enemies
 - your reputation and relationship at home
 - seeing justice prevail in spite of my grace
 - your comfort and safety
- I am concerned about:
 - 120 000 people who are lost – don't know way
 - all the surrounding animals etc

Heart Check

- in a few years Nahum sent to Nineveh
 - unrepentant and destroyed
- Just as I cared for Adam & Eve
- Just as I set apart for myself a people
- Just as I have cared for you
- I care about them

Heart Check

So What

1. We Need To Have Our Hearts Exposed

- have we allowed prejudice, racism, sense of justice to override the Love God has for others
- have we taken for granted what we know about God and not been compelled to share it with others
- do we call for justice on others, but desire mercy and grace for ourselves
- are we exclusive – not loving those who are offensive but righteous in our desire for their destruction

Heart Check

- has anger taken root in our lives, robbing us of enjoying what God is doing
- our comfort disturbed, our desires sidelined for others

2. Need to Remember Who God Is

- character revealed in His Word
- power and authority revealed in His Word, Work
- clear communication about his Love & desire for lost
- clear command about our participation in that

Heart Check

3. We Need to Respond

- called to be repentant
 - acknowledge sin, confess to God, accept forgiveness, turn to live differently
- called to love God with all we are and have
 - heart, soul, mind and strength
- called to be disciples of Christ
 - growing, serving, loving, changing, witnessing
- called to love others