

Heartbeat: Plants and People

By Brett Hilliard, February 26, 2023

4 Signs of mis-alignment with God.

1. Spiritually confused ✓

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing 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.” Jonah 4:1-2 NIV

2. Emotionally stuck ✓

“Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.” But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Jonah 4:3-4 NIV

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” “It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.” Jonah 4:9 NIV

3. Physically detached ✓ and passive ✓

Jonah had gone 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. Jonah 4:5 NIV

...the people who know their God will display strength and take action. Daniel 11:32 NASB

4. Relationally mis-directed ✓

But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left – and also many animals?” Jonah 4:10-11 NIV



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What are the best ways for you to monitor your own heart? How do you know if your concerns are out of balance?
2. What truths about God confuse you experientially? How do you deal with spiritual confusion?