



“Following Over Controlling”

Jonah 4:1-4, 9-11

January 10, 2021

Looking back on the year 2020 will bring up many feelings for many for quite some time. 2021 started rather tumultuous as well. During this season of high emotions, it is a good time to reflect upon our reactions. The prophet Jonah lived during a dangerous time. Warriors from the Assyrian Empire often invaded with brutal and horrific results. Every praying man, woman, and child in Israel wanted the Assyrians to be punished for all of the sufferings they caused. God, instead of punishing them, grants them mercy. Jonah is struggling. He didn't want God to forgive; he wanted God to fry them. What do we do when God does not do what we want? Jonah wanted to die. Yet, he left behind this story for us to learn from it. He loved mercy for himself, but not for others.

To schedule pastoral counseling and/or prayer with one of our pastors, please call Rachel at 661-431-6229. We are dedicated to praying for, and listening to, all your needs! Please note that we are also available for “zoom” appointments as well!



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Jonah 4:1-4, 9-11 - But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ² 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. ³ Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁹ “It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.” ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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?”

Following Over Controlling

1. Instead of criticizing our enemies, God is calling us to pray for them. (Enemies are people that hurt us. They are people that cause us either emotional or physical discomfort. No people group would be harder to grant mercy.)
2. Instead of running from God, jump into the fish!). (The fish is scary. The fish is the place where God is totally in control and you are totally surrendered. There is no better place to be!)
3. Instead of hoping somebody else will do it, you do it. (We Americans are masters at passing the buck sometimes, aren't we? It is so easy to think, “I am not good at this, I will screw this up, or this is not my plan.” Often this is a smoke screen either for our own fear of failure or our own desire for control. Next time you hear, “Let somebody else do it,” be honest to ask yourself if you are supposed to do it).
4. Instead of making God in our image, let us conform to His. (This one takes humility and surrender!)

Thank you so much for coming out to LifePoint today!
Let us know if there is any way that we can serve you!

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