

JONAH 4:3-4

In our time of desperation or need, we often make rash statements not necessarily thinking of their consequences. Think about a time that you made such a statement to God in your time of need. Was it consistent with His will or were you trying to “get what you needed”?

Jonah 4:3

Jonah makes a desperate and seemingly prayer to the Lord. We see people like Moses, Jeremiah, Job and Elijah making similar requests to God at different points in their life.

In 1 Kings 19:4, we see Elijah, desperate enough to die in the wilderness, asking God to end His life. That is when the angel brings hot bread and water in the wilderness and wakes him up twice and feeds him, he is so strengthened that he travels 40 days and nights following which God reveals His Glory to Elijah and Elijah goes back in the power of God and fights with the 400 prophets of Baal. Times in our life when we feel, we’ve had enough and might as well end our life, we must remember, our God is still on the throne and His Peace which passes all understanding can fill our minds. When we seek other routes for our answers know that HE alone can and will strengthen our weary bodies and soul.

Jonah 4:4

God asks Jonah what right he has to be angry? In Genesis 4:6, we see God asking Cain the same question and telling him if you had done the right thing you would have been happy instead of angry. We also feel angry with God sometimes, but we need to ask ourselves, have we tried to first to do the right things.

In Matthew 20:11-15, Jesus tells the parable of workers and daily wages. The landowner reminds the workers who complained, “I gave you what was promised and don’t I have the right to decide how I will pay each of you with my money?” Jonah continued to question God’s mercy on others.

We also tend to question sometimes as to why God is not punishing those whom we feel deserve to be punished and wonder why God is showing mercy towards them. But we must remember, He is God and can be merciful to those whom He

chooses to be merciful to, just as He was merciful to sinners like all of us, through the Cross.

Application for Life:

1. Look at Jonah's first prayer in the belly of the fish and his second prayer in Ninevah. Try to compare and contrast them. Work on asking God to help us overcome anger towards others and being kind to our enemies.
2. Hold yourself accountable for your words. Think carefully about what you will say in moments of anger, sadness and even joy. Other around you can be affected, but the God who knows the heart will hold you accountable.

Verses to consider:

God hears our desperate pleas: I Kings 19: 1-7, Psalms 143

God is the true and just judge: Romans 2:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10