

JONAH 4:5-8

All of creation is God's gift to us and rarely do we think that the same God that gives us the beautiful, warm, sunny days in the summer, is the same God that sends the wind, ice and snow in the winter. Take time this week to ask yourself if Jonah's attitude towards the plant that God gave him is any different from ours.

Jonah 4:5

We see Jonah come out to the desert around Nineveh to wait and see who is desire would come true, his own or God's. Jonah waited on the Lord, but not with courage that God would save the people, but that destruction would come down on them. Mary, the mother of Christ, is another contrast to Jonah's attitude. When the angel came with the message of promise, Mary did not hesitate to accept and humble herself. She waited and received the promise of the angel and we are all blessed through this.

Jonah 4:6-8

In these verses we see God, in control of all creation, bringing comfort and then difficulty on Jonah. The shade from the plant protected him and allowed him to rest, to the point that it notes that Jonah was happy. Quickly the opposite happened, with the plant withering, the sun blazing down and the hot air blowing onto Jonah's face. We see a perfect display of Jonah true heart in this matter. Happiness quickly turns to anger, not simply at nature but at God himself. To the point that Jonah simply desires to die. Compare this to Paul's words Philippians 1:21, "for me to live is Christ and to die is gain". When we are blessed with provisions, we forget to thank Him and when troubles come we complain about Him.

Application for Life:

1. Remember the many bountiful gifts that God the Father has provided for us. Most of all let us focus on the greatest gift He has given us, his Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior. Train yourself to thank him every day for the blessings that far exceed the problems.
2. Instead of trying to help God make decisions about how He needs to handle certain people, look within and realize that God needs to continue to change our own hearts, to love our neighbor as ourselves.
3. Self-centeredness is a feature of Jonah's character. We also struggle with putting ourselves in the center of our lives. Pray for the strength from the Holy Spirit to make God the center of our lives and look to Him to guide are attitudes and decisions.

Verses to consider:

God the Creator: Genesis 1:1, Nehemiah 9:6

God's perfect plan: Jeremiah 29:11, Proverbs 3:5-6

God's desire to save all: 1 Timothy 2:3-4, Ezekiel 33:11