

*Jonah, part 7:*  
**“The Lesson of Mercy Brought to God’s People”**  
Jonah 4:1-11

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The Lord is faithful to address the ‘spiritual deformities’ in His people

**1. The Prophet’s Spiritual Deformity Exposed** vv. 1-3

(1) **Jonah very angry!** *“But it displeased Jonah exceedingly,  
and he became angry.”*

- The occasion: God’s showing mercy to the Ninevites
- Now a ‘surfacing’ of Jonah’s sin which had previously remained hidden

(2) **Jonah ‘vents’**

- 1- He prays! Even the ‘angry prayers’ of the saints are heard!
  
- 2- A great ‘disconnect’! - He knew what God was like in His mercy and forgiveness
  
- 3- A particular hardness – “Put me to death as You were going to do at first!”

**2. The Prophet’s Spiritual Deformity Addressed: God’s Lesson** vv. 4-11

(1) **The ‘Question’ (4-5)** *“Is it right for you to be angry?”*

- Jonah persists in his sin. He still hopes for judgment!

(2) **The ‘Student’ Prepared (6-8)**

- 1- The LORD prepares a plant: a source of great delight and satisfaction to Jonah
  
- 2- The LORD prepares a worm: to destroy the plant
  
- 3- The LORD prepares a dry withering wind: to make Jonah keenly feel the loss of the plant

**(3) The Lesson Applied (9-11)**

-1- The ‘Question’ put again *“Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”*

-2- **The Lesson plainly stated: A great contradiction in Jonah’s heart!**

**Jonah felt pity for *the plant* which had been destroyed**

- He had neither produced it nor maintained it!
- Though lovely, it was a very transitory thing!

**Should not the LORD have pity on Nineveh?**

- He had produced it and caused it to grow  
Can He not properly feel pity for those to whom He has given life?
  
- He had blessed its inhabitants with children  
Can He not properly pity the most helpless among mankind?
  
- He had blessed it with an abundance of animals  
Can He not properly pity even the beasts?

-3- **No response recorded**

- None is needed!
- The lesson is not merely for Jonah; it is for all the people of God!

**Further Application:**