

## Communion Meditation – Jonah

Jonah 4.1-3 (read 3.10 – 4.3)

“Jonah Gets Angry”

Sep 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### Recap

- Jonah disobeyed God and ran away towards Tarshish
  - Until today’s text we’d not known why Jonah had run away
  - Could have been fear of Assyrians ~ But it was hatred
  - Pastor Kayser spoke of this in sermon last week ~ “*bitterness*”
- Jonah is given a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance ~ and he obeys
  - The entire city turns to God in repentance including king

### v1 ~ “It Displeased Jonah Exceedingly”

- An entire city turns to God and Jonah is exceedingly displeased
  - Then we learn details of when he ran away from God at the start
  - **v2** ~ “.. *was this not what I said .. therefore I fled to Tarshish*”
  - “*gracious and merciful .. slow to anger .. abundant in lovingkindness*”
- “.. *please take my life from me .. better for me to die*”
  - Jonah would rather die than live in such a world – *III: Les Mis (Insp. Javert)*

### v4 ~ “Is it Right for You to be Angry?”

- Jonah is offended and incensed at God’s mercy & forgiveness
- He wants to see “*justice*” ~ not mercy, no not mercy
- God asks this question of me a lot ..
  - At times I am easily angered ~ And it’s mostly at petty things
  - Anger is funny that way ~ The spark can be so tiny
  - The fuel for the fire of anger is within us ~ any little thing can ignite it
- Jonah probably has a lot of fuel (“loss, hurt, bitterness”)
  - His reaction may be far less severe than ours would if we were in his situation

### God’s Grace not Under Our Control

- The correct answer to God’s rhetorical question is “**No...**” / for Jonah and us

**As Judge over all the Earth God exercises justice and mercy at His discretion**

**James 2.13 ~ “Judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”**

**In the Lord’s Table we see mercy triumphing over judgment**