

DIFFICULT COMPASSION

Jonah 4

displeased (v. 1) -

compassion's root (v. 2) -

imbalanced righteousness -

1. Our compassion can be blocked by wrong _____. 4:1-4

Application to My Life:

When do you become so fixed (and even angry) in your viewpoints about someone or an expectation that you lack flexible compassion?

three natural circumstances created to reveal Jonah's lack of compassion:

castor oil plant (v. 6)-

destroying worm (v. 7)-

hot desert wind (v. 8)-

2. Our compassion is revealed by difficult _____. 4:5-9

Application to My Life:

What things distract you or build your resistance to engaging your neighbors?

God challenges concerns in three ways:

physical over spiritual

self over others

today over eternity

3. Our compassion is stretched by God's _____. 4:10-11

Application to My Life:

How can you demonstrate God's compassion to someone even when it is difficult?

Life Group Discussion/Personal Meditation Questions:

Icebreaker: As a child, how did you respond when you didn't get your way?

Read Jonah 4:1-4.

1. Jonah felt God was *too* compassionate toward Nineveh. How do we balance righteousness with love in life relationships?

2. How do *you* handle anger in a relationship? What Biblical principles can you apply to help deal with anger (see Ephesians 4:26-27, James 1:20)?

3. Was Jonah being rigid in his viewpoint? How do we know when we are being too rigid with an attitude toward others I am supposed to reach?

Read Jonah 4:5-9.

4. What was God trying to teach Jonah through the plant, worm, and hot wind?

5. How have circumstances in your life tried to shape your heart?

6. How are you too distracted, too busy, or too resistant to pursue outreach relationships?

Read Jonah 4:10.

7. How do we get trapped into valuing the physical over the spiritual, self over others, or today over eternity?