



## What's Really Important to Me?

12.12.2021

*"In forty days you will be destroyed!" Jonah 3:4*

*Then Jonah went out to the east side of the city and made a shelter of sticks to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city. Jonah 4:5*

*And the LORD God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there, and soon it spread its broad leaves over Jonah's head, shading him from the sun. This eased his discomfort, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant. Jonah 4:6 (NLT)*

*The people of Nineveh believed God's message, and from the greatest to the least. Jonah 3:5*

*But God also arranged for a worm to eat through the stem of the plant so that it withered away. And as the sun grew hot, God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. The sun beat down on his head until he grew faint and wished to die. "Death is certainly better than living like this!" he exclaimed.*

*Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?"*

*"Yes," Jonah retorted, "even angry enough to die!"*

*Then the LORD said, "You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in*

*spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn't I feel compassion for such a great city?" Jonah 4*

*"If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it." -Jesus (Matthew 10:39, NLT)*

*God was using Christ to restore his relationship with humanity. He didn't hold people's faults against them. And he has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. 2 Corinthians 5:19 (GWT)*

### Talk it Over! For my thoughts and LifeGroup\*

Read Jonah 4. What insights into human nature (and spiritual maturity) do you see here? How is Jonah like you and NOT like you?

Look at Luke 9:23. What are some day-to-day examples of what it means to 'deny self, take up cross, and follow Jesus?'

Imagine that it was you (instead of Jonah) sitting on the edge of Nineveh. What do you think Jonah did after the plant died and God reprimanded him?

What do you think you would have done?

How has God been shaping your life to view people differently?

Pray for each other!

\*A LifeGroup is a group of people who are committed to loving each other and growing through times like these. For more information, connect with Pastor Len at [len@marinerscc.org](mailto:len@marinerscc.org)