**When Mercy Feels Unfair**

**Jonah 4:1-4**

**Recap:**

* **Running From God (Jonah 1:1-3)**
* **The Storm of Disobedience (Jonah 1:4-9)**
* **Lessons from the Belly of the Fish (Jonah 1:17-2:10)**
* **The God of Second Chances (Jonah 3:1-4)**
* **The Power of Repentance and God’s Mercy (Jonah 3:5-10)**
  + **The Response of the People (v. 5)**
  + **The Humility of Leadership (vv. 6-7)**
  + **The Depth of Repentance (vv. 8-9)**
  + **The Mercy of God (v. 10)**

**Introduction:**

* **Jonah 4:1-4**
* **We need to understand God’s Compassion and Our Response to His Grace.**
* **Today we look at what I call “When Mercy Feels Unfair.”**
* **Talk about how wicked Nineveh were known to be.**

1. **Jonah’s Anger at God’s Mercy (vv. 1-2)**
   1. **Jonah is exceedingly displeased and angry.**
   2. **He struggles with God’s gracious and compassionate nature.**
   3. **Jonah wanted justice, but God extended grace to Nineveh.**
2. **Jonah’s Misguided Perspective (v. 3)**
   1. **Jonah asks God to take his life-his emotions cloud his judgment.**
   2. **He values his own expectations over God’s divine plan.**
   3. **Sometimes, we resist God’s mercy when it challenges our personal biases.**
3. **God’s Gentle Response (v. 4)**
   1. **God asks, “Is it right for you to be angry?”**
   2. **A call for Jonah (and us) to reflect on God’s sovereignty.**
   3. **Teaches us to align our hearts with God’s Compassion.**

**Conclusion/Application:**

* **Do we struggle with God’s mercy toward others?**
* **How can we embrace God’s grace even when it challenges us?**
* **Trusting that God’s ways are higher than our own.**
* **Remember:**
  + **God is Gracious**
  + **God is Merciful**
  + **God is Loving**
  + **God is Forgiving**
  + **God is Patient**