**The Heart of God**

**Jonah 4:5-11**

**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)**
* **When Mercy Feels Unfair**
  + **Jonah’s Anger at God’s Mercy (vv. 1-2)**
  + **Jonah’s Misguided Perspective (v. 3)**
  + **God’s Gentle Response (v. 4)**

**Introduction:**

* **Jonah 4:5-11**
* **We left off from last week that Jonah was frustrated with God’s Mercy.**
* **In verse four. Jonah ignores God.**
* **Today let us look at lessons we can learned from the Heart of God.**

1. **Jonah’s Discontent (v. 5)**
   1. **Jonah leaves the city hoping to see Nineveh destroyed.**
   2. **His attitude reflects a struggle between justice and mercy.**
   3. **Application: Are we ever disappointed when God forgives those we think deserve of judgment.**
2. **The Object Lesson (vv. 6-8)**
   1. **God provides a plan for shade, then removes it, exposing Jonah to harsh conditions.**
   2. **Jonah’s extreme reaction to the loss-anger over a plant but no concern for a city.**
   3. **Application: What do we value more-our comfort or God’s purposes.**
3. **God’s Perspective (vv. 9-11)**
   1. **God challenges Jonah’s misplaced priorities.**
   2. **The contrast between Jonah’s concern for the plant and God’s concern for Nineveh.**
   3. **Application: How does God’s heart for people challenge our own biases and prejudices?**

**Conclusion/Application:**

* **How will we answer the questions at the end of the book?**
* **We are Jonah!**
  + **Holding up a mirror in our lives**
  + **What do we see?**
* **We need to grow in our concern for others.**
* **God’s mercy extends beyond what we sometimes expect.**
* **Encouragement to align our hearts with God’s Compassion**
* **Call to Action: How can we mirror God’s love in our actions today?**

**Laurel Bunker quote from the book: The Kingdom The Power The Glory: American Evangelicals In An Age of Extremism**

**“We’ve got to remember there is nothing to hard for God,” she said. “If you are sitting here, in your right mind, you are a walking miracle. You were not too hard for God-with your messed-up, jacked-up self. So, listen, make a little room for a child of God. Make a little room for a misfit. Make a little room for that kid who is mentally burdened with their sexuality. Because here’s the reality: We can be mad all we want, at the quote-unquote liberal agenda, but unless the people of the gospel have a better way, we have nothing to talk about.”**