V

"Is it right for you to be this angry?"

Our out-of-proportion anger serves to spotlight what is out-ofproportion in our lives. It illuminates the idols lurking in the darkness of our hearts.

God's Uncomfortable, Unsettling Work

Cf. Hebrews 12:5-13, & 1 Peter 4:12-19

Jonah 4:5-6

5 Jonah left the city and found a place east of it. He made himself a shelter there and sat in its shade to see what would happen to the city. 6 Then the LORD God appointed a plant, and it grew over Jonah to provide shade for his head to rescue him from his trouble. Jonah was greatly pleased with the plant.

"The LORD protects you; the LORD is a shelter right by your side. The sun will not strike you by day or the moon by night. The LORD will protect you from all harm; he will protect your life." (Psalm 121:5-7)

"How priceless your faithful love is, God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings." (Psalm 36:7)

Jonah 4:7-8

7 When dawn came the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, and it withered. 8 As the sun was rising, God appointed a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so much that he almost fainted, and he wanted to die.

Jonah 4:8-9

8...He said, "It's better for me to die than to live." 9 Then God asked Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "Yes, it's right!" he replied. "I'm angry enough to die!"

God's Object Lesson

• The PLANT = God's grace

God's Object Lesson

- The PLANT = God's grace
- The WORM = God's judgment

God's Object Lesson

- The PLANT = God's grace
- The WORM = God's judgment
- The WIND = Estrangement from God because of a rejection of His mercy

"For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses." (Matthew 6:14-15)

"Be merciful, just as your Father is also merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven... For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:36-38)

"Let all bitterness, anger, and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ." (Ephesians 4:30-32)

Jonah 4:10

10 And the LORD said, "You cared about the plant, which you did not labor over and did not grow. It appeared in a night and perished in a night."

Jonah 4:11

11 "So may I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than a hundred twenty thousand people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals?"

"Dear friends, don't overlook this one fact: With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay..." (2 Peter 3:8-9)

"...But [the Lord] is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance... Therefore, dear friends, while you wait for these things, make every effort to be found without spot or blemish in his sight, at peace. Also, regard the patience of our Lord as salvation." (2 Peter 3:9, 14-15)

