

THREE: Do You Know God's Uncomfortable Grace?

The story of Jonah puts two seemingly unrelated attributes of God's character together: anger and grace. As they intertwine in Jonah's story we see how both are necessary for our redemption. God is merciful, and he shows us his anger so that we can begin to surrender to the grace of the one who is our only hope. Grace is more than a tender touch of relief. **Grace is uncomfortable.**

Read Jonah 1:4-17

1) Does God's anger bother you? Why?

2) How is God's anger different than your anger? What is the purpose of God's anger?

"A world without God's anger is utterly unliveable."

3) On the cross, the anger and grace of God come together. The anger of God rests on Christ so that we would be shown grace. Is God angry with your personal sin? How does God show you grace every day?

"Don't confuse theological knowledge and biblical literacy with spiritual maturity... You don't just think your theology; you live your theology."

4) How do God's holy anger and grace change your view of yourself and your view of others? How should this change the way you live. Be specific.

5) Do difficulty and hardship in your life change your view of God? How do you try to “lighten the load” or cast blame?

“Helplessness is the doorway to hope.”

6) God is gracious enough to make us uncomfortable. In hardship, he softens our hearts and shows us the futility of our own wisdom and strength. Have you encountered God’s uncomfortable grace? List some practical ways that you can rely on His wisdom, strength, and righteousness more this week.

STREET LEVEL TRUTH: If you’re not suffering now, you are near someone who is. If you’re not suffering now, you will someday. One of the reasons you will suffer is because He loves you. He will use that difficulty to soften your heart and to bring you to the end of yourself, so that you put your faith in Him. Redemption is about the anger and grace of God coming together for our good, for our rescue, and for our forgiveness.

PRAYER: Lord, thank you for your redemption in Christ. We see the power of your anger in a storm that made seasoned sailors afraid. We see that anger is not meant for condemnation, or our judgment, but for our redemption. Thank you for Jesus, who willingly received the storm of your anger so that grace would flow to us. Thank you, in Jesus’ name, amen.

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV): But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.