

# Questions God Asks: Do You Do Well to be Angry?

*(Jonah 4:4)*



## A Lenten Series on The Questions God Asks His people

“Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is  
better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said,

“Do you do well to be angry?”

*(Jonah 4:3-4)*

## + Call to Worship +

The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;  
**blessed be the name of the Lord.** Job 1:21

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,  
**plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.** Jeremiah 29:11

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?** Romans 8:31

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.  
**Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.** Joshua 1:9

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered.  
**Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.** Luke 12:6-7

The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;  
**blessed be the name of the Lord.** Job 1:21

**Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!** Romans 11:33

## + Confession and Forgiveness +

**P** Heavenly Father, as we come before your presence tonight, we confess that we have daily sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not trusted you in our trials. We have gotten angry with your providence. And we have not been thankful as we should. Come to us with grace and mercy. And forgive us for Jesus' sake.

**C** Merciful Father, you have shown yourself merciful, kind, and slow to anger. For you have sent your Son into the world to be our savior and redeemer. We praise you that you have not dealt with us in your anger. But have rather given us all good things according to the council of your will. We thank you for calling us into your church where you daily and richly forgive us our sins. Give us confidence and strength in knowing that we are your people, cherished, loved, and forgiven through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## + Hymn 730 +

*What Is the World to Me*

## + Scripture Readings +

### Old Testament Reading:

*Jonah 3:10—4:11*

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

<sup>1</sup>But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. <sup>2</sup>And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. <sup>3</sup>Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

<sup>5</sup>Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup>Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>And the LORD said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle Reading:

*Ephesians 4:20–32*

<sup>20</sup>But that is not the way you learned Christ!—<sup>21</sup>assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup>to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup>and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

<sup>25</sup>Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry

and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup>Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. <sup>29</sup>Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup>Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Gospel Reading:**

*Luke 9:51–56*

<sup>51</sup>When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup>And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. <sup>53</sup>But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” <sup>55</sup>But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup>And they went on to another village.

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **+ Hymn 752 +**

*Be Still, My Soul*

### **+ Sermon +**

*Title: Is it Right to be Angry?*

*Text: Jonah 3:10—4:11*

### **+ Hymn 575 +**

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

### **+ Prayers +**

### **+ Lord’s Prayer +**

### **+ Benediction +**

### **+ Hymn 719 +**

*I Leave All Things to God’s Direction*