



“God’s Mysterious Love”

Jonah 3:10-4:9 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
March 3, 2024

Introduction –After Jonah’s preaching and spiritual revival in Nineveh, Jonah collapses in anger toward God. Today we continue to explore why.

I. The Conundrum of God’s Love.

- A. Jonah is confounded that God let the Ninevites off and forgave them. How could He do that?
- B. Jonah tells us why he is so upset with God. (4:2)
- C. Jonah can’t understand how God’s love operates.
- D. God’s love is like a fire.

II. God’s Refining Love.

- A. God’s refining love is related to His nature as a jealous God. He is jealous for His people.
- B. God’s jealousy is not like our jealousy.

- C. God’s jealousy is triggered when His people start serving false gods and idols. (Deut. 4:24)
- D. What does God’s refining love consume?
 - 1. Things that threaten our love for Him.
 - 2. Things that have become more precious to us than God Himself.
- E. God’s refining love is life purifying.
- F. For Jonah, God appoints a plant, a worm, and a scorching east wind.
- G. God may choose to give us comforts, but then He may choose to take them away because of His refining love.
- H. Ultimately, only God may know the loving reasons why He does what He does.
- I. Like a child, when we don’t understand what God brings or takes from our life, we must trust His heart, that He knows what we need and what is best for us.

Conclusion.