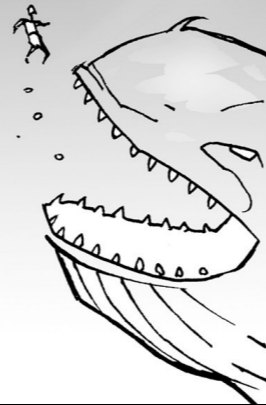
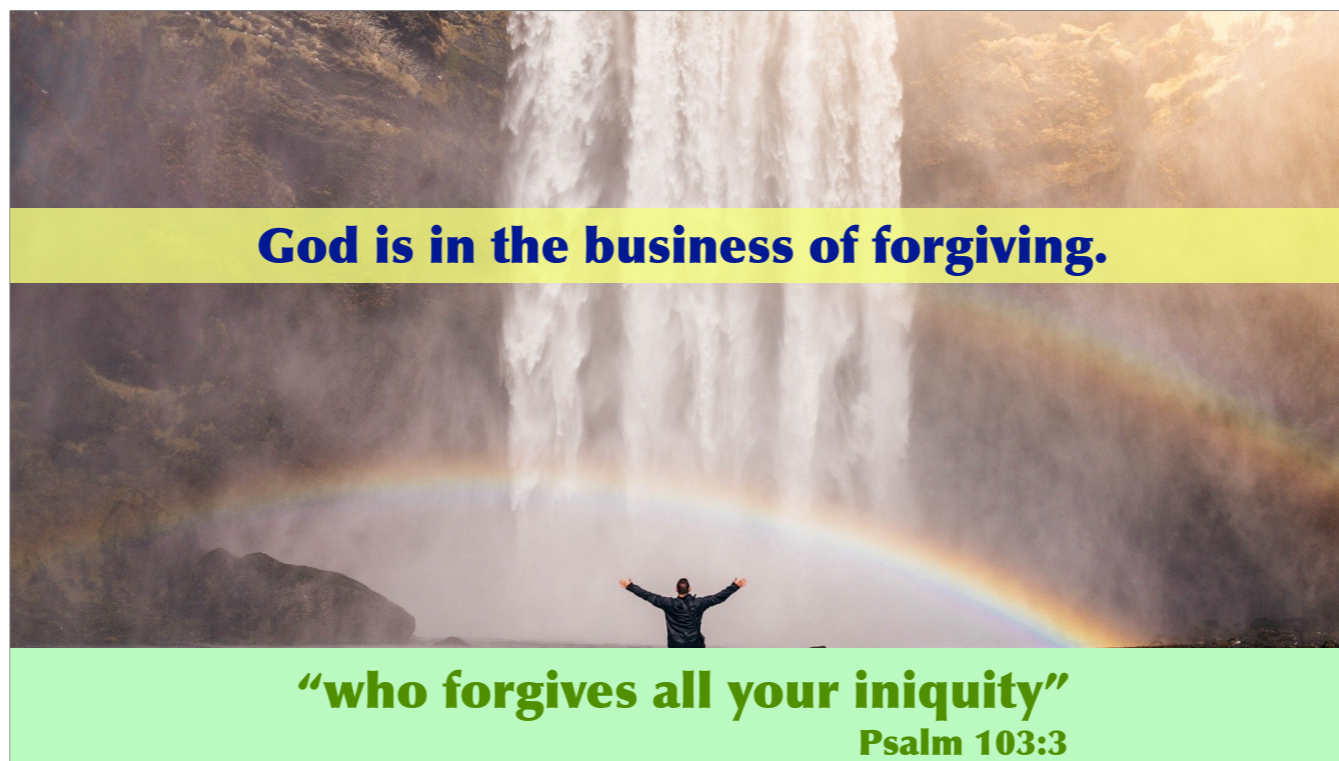


**Do You  
Do Well  
to be  
Angry?**



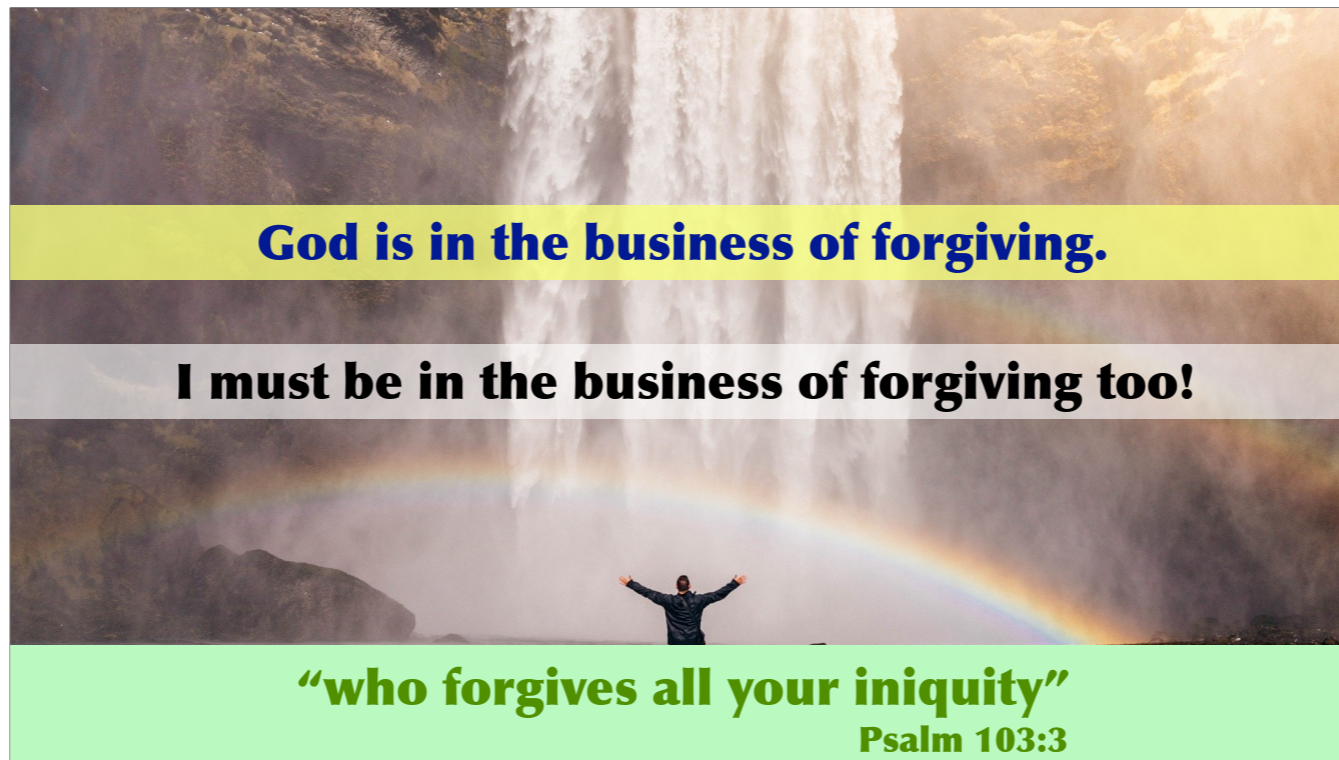
**Jonah**



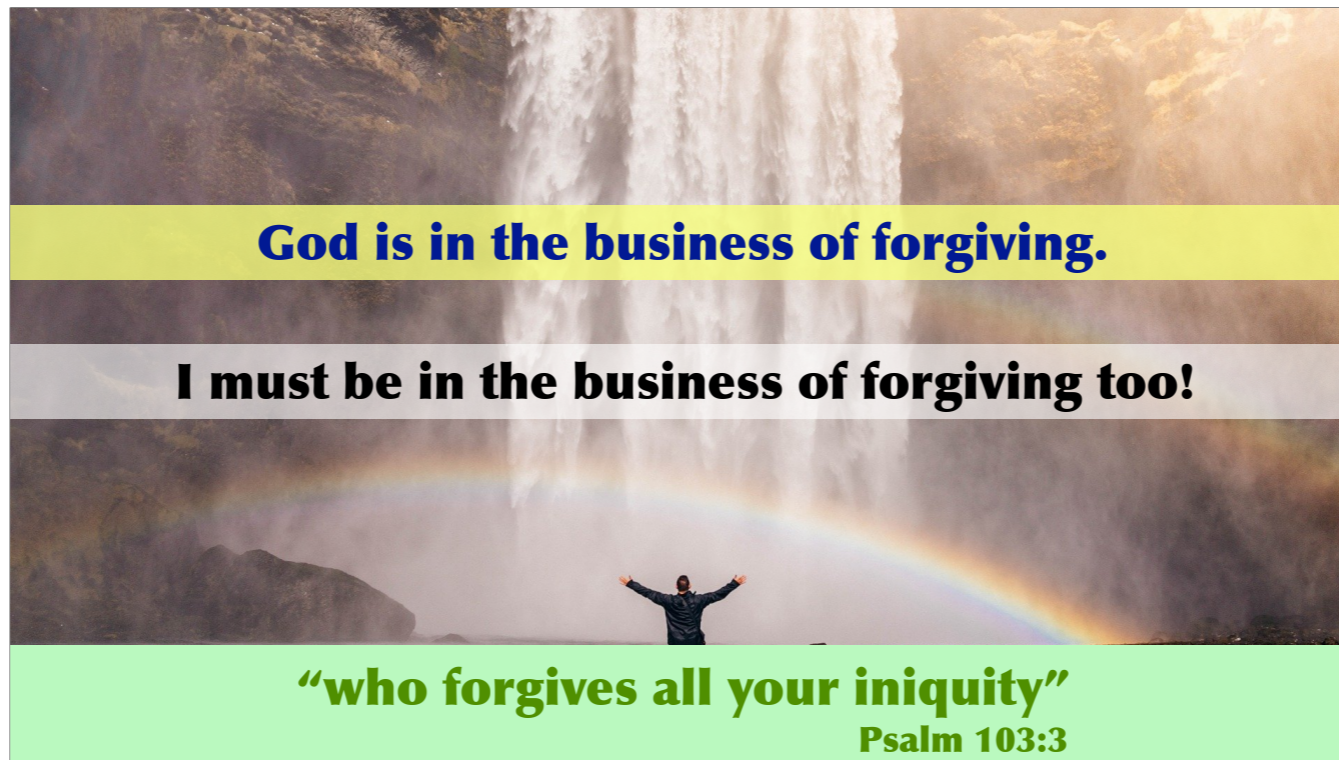
**God is in the business of forgiving.**

**“who forgives all your iniquity”**  
**Psalm 103:3**

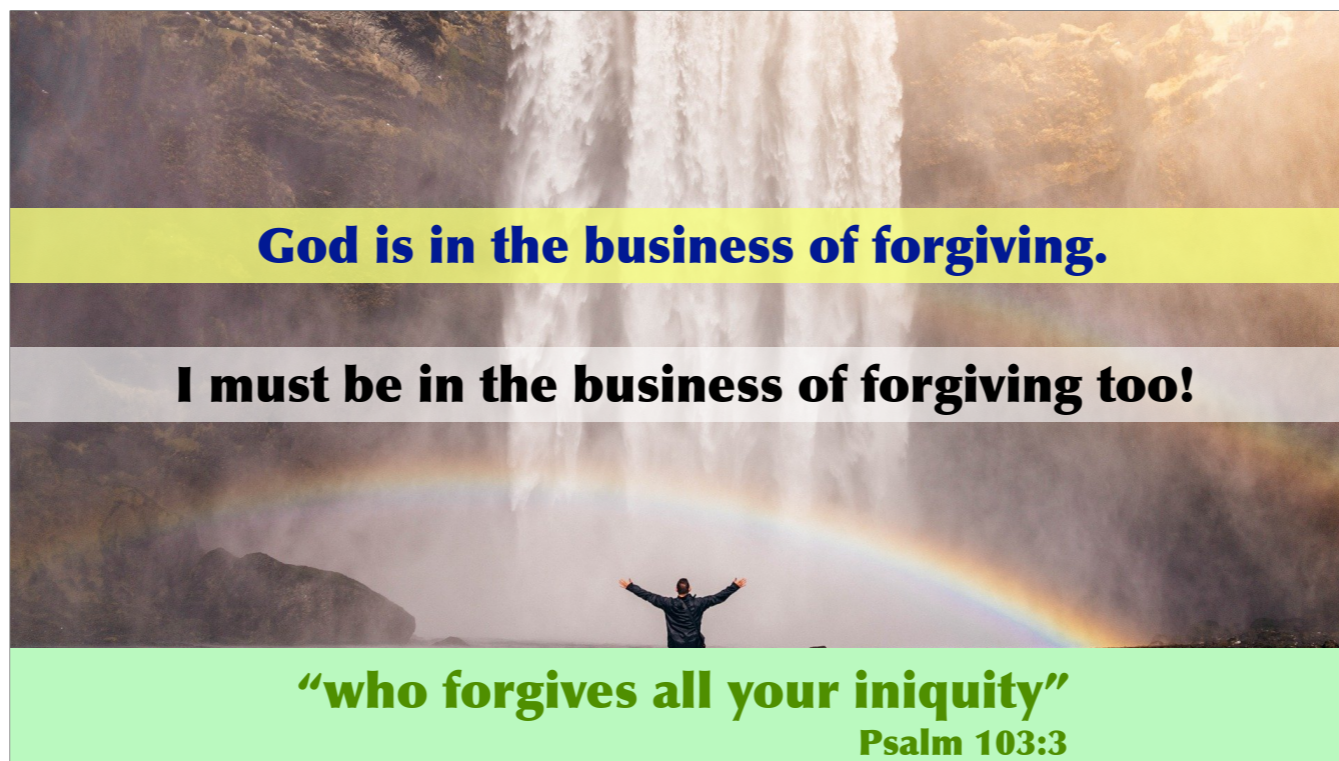
- Previous lessons: God is in the business of forgiveness.
  - Psalms 103:1-5 (ESV) 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.



- Since we are to be like God, we also must be in the business of forgiving.
- But we also learned in last lesson that God doesn't always forgive!
  - Moses knew that Jehovah might not forgive the people of Israel for their great sin of making the Golden Calf at Mt. Sinai.
  - Moses warned that God would not forgive idolatry before they entered the promised land



- Joshua reminded them of the same thing before he died.
- Jeremiah in laments bold asserts that Jehovah had not forgiven them.



- One of our great struggles with forgiving those who hurt us is the anger for what they have done.

**Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city and call out  
against it, for their evil has come up before me.**

**Jonah 1:2**



- Story of Jonah

- Jonah experiences the wrath of God for disobedience
- and the grace of God that saves

**Do you  
do well  
to be  
angry?**

**Jonah 4:4**



- Reluctant to Forgive: Warning from Jonah

- Jonah 4:1-4 (ESV) 1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. 2 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. 3 Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” 4 And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

**Do you  
do well  
to be  
angry?**

**Jonah 4:4**



- Jonah 4:10-11 (ESV) 10 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. 11 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?”



**Do you  
do well  
to be  
angry?**

**Jonah 4:4**



- The wicked behavior of the Assyrians against the people of Israel was horrific
  - Although, it was largely due to the idolatry of the Israelites and God's way of punishing their sins and trying to get them to turn back to Him in faithfulness.
- When told to go preach that destruction was coming to this wicked people and that they needed to repent, Jonah refused.
  - I infer there were some deep seated prejudices and hatred against Assyria because of the atrocities against Israel.

**Do you  
do well  
to be  
angry?**

**Jonah 4:4**



- Eventually he does go, is wildly successful, and the Assyrians repent and God relents from the disaster.
  - It seems Jonah had really been hoping they would not repent.
  - He had wanted a disaster to come against the Assyrians.

**Do you  
do well  
to be  
angry?**

**Jonah 4:4**



- When they repented and God didn't destroy them, Jonah is angry.
  - He knew the character of God: gracious, merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, relenting from disaster
  - Jonah wanted the disaster.
  - Was Jonah angry at Assyria for repenting?
  - Was Jonah angry at God for relenting?

**And  
should  
I not  
pity  
Nineveh?**

**Jonah 4:11**



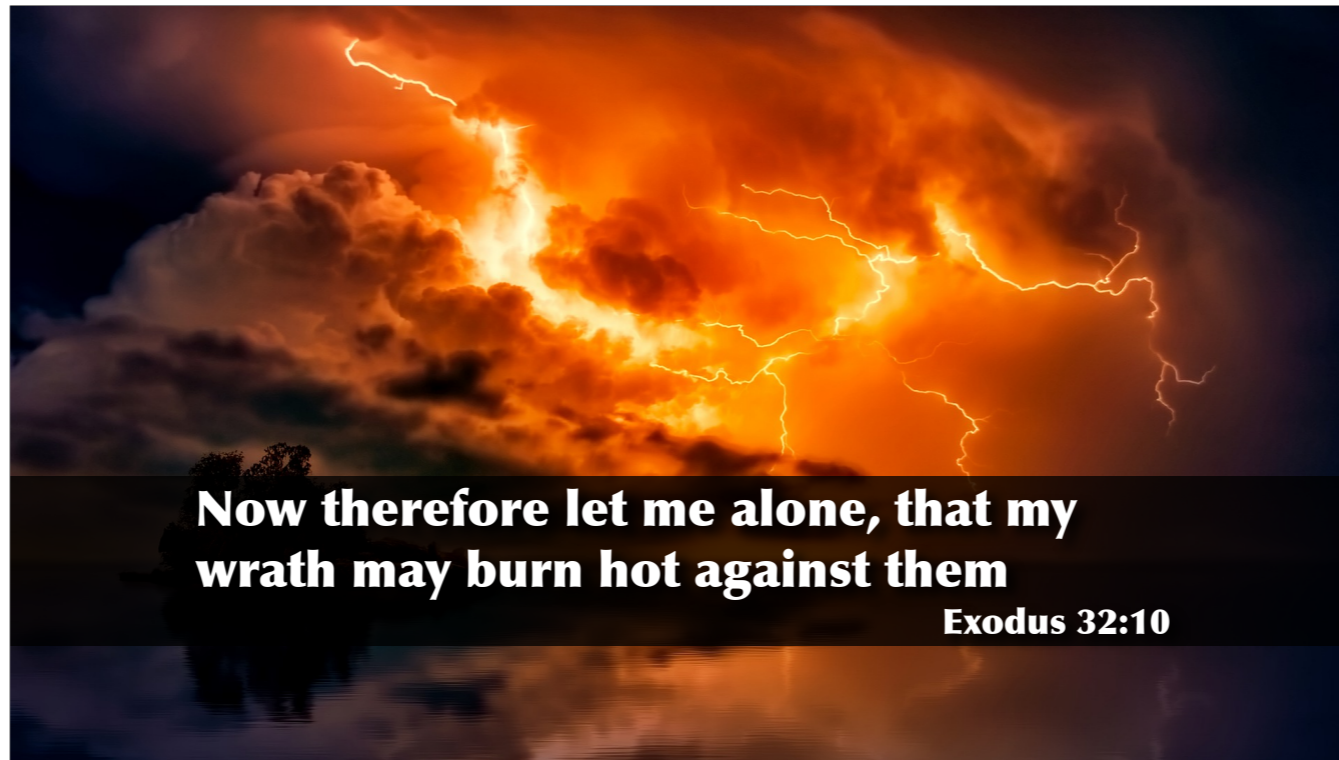
- Jehovah shows Jonah that PITY is superior to Anger.
  - God was looking for a reason to be compassionate toward the Assyrians, so when they repented he “forgave” them (the word forgive is not in the text, but it is clearly implied to me).

**And  
should  
I not  
pity  
Nineveh?**

**Jonah 4:11**



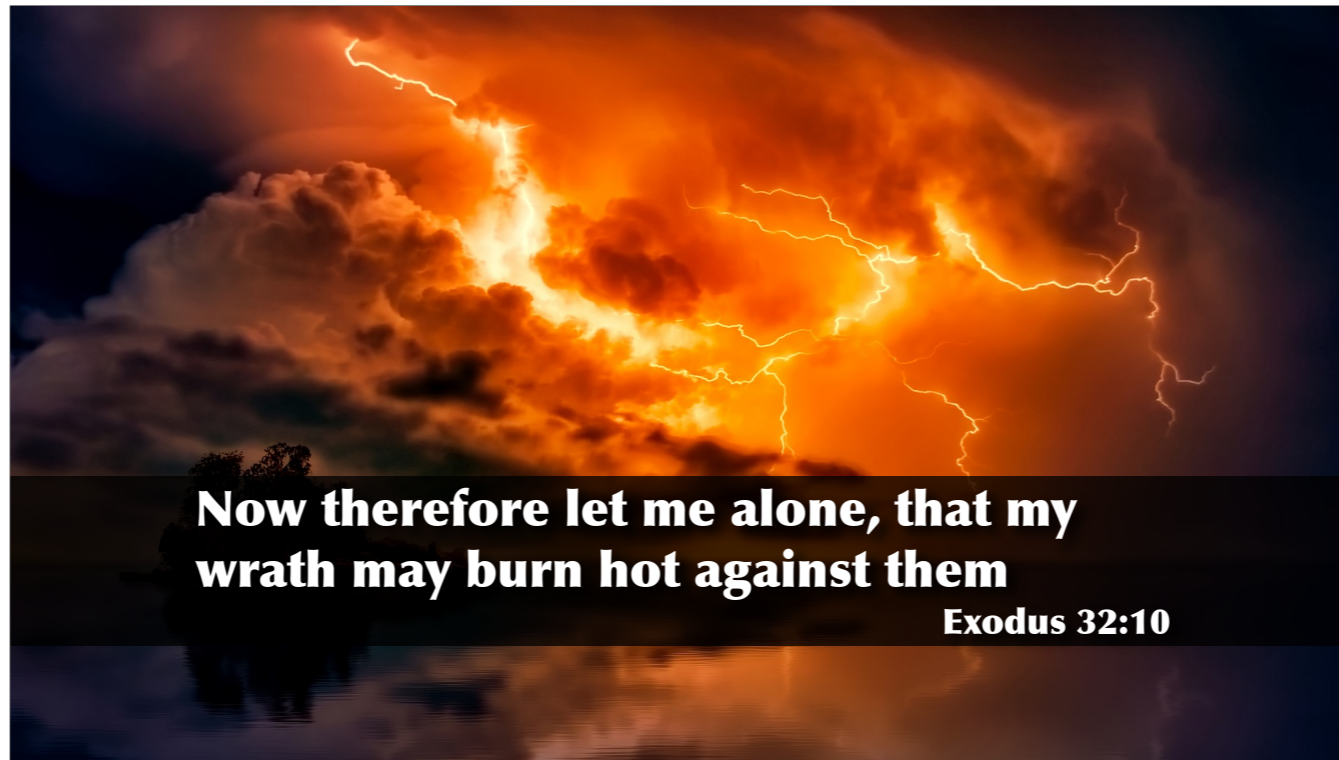
- Jonah was looking for a reason not to forgive the Assyrians
  - So he didn't accept their repentance
  - He wanted to be angry with them
  - He refused to show pity
  - Waiting for something bad to happen to them.
  - Jonah didn't want them to be forgiven because he considered them his enemies.
    - Not because it was in line with God's will for them.



**Now therefore let me alone, that my  
wrath may burn hot against them**

**Exodus 32:10**

Exodus 32:7-10 (ESV) 7 And the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” 9 And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.”



**Now therefore let me alone, that my  
wrath may burn hot against them**

**Exodus 32:10**

Anger, wrath is real

How do we cope with it?

Hold on, strike out, let it eat at us?

**And  
should  
I not  
pity  
Nineveh?**

**Jonah 4:11**



- Here is clearly a danger for us when we've been sinned against.
  - Sometimes we are hurt so deeply that we are moved by anger not pity.
  - We refuse to acknowledge that repentance is genuine.
  - We convince ourselves that we are right to hold onto our anger
  - We wait for something bad to happen to them.



**And  
should  
I not  
pity  
Nineveh?**

**Jonah 4:11**



- Jonah and I need to learn that when someone repents, our response needs to be pity
  - because that is how God is.
- But God had gone further than that
  - We see his pity because he sends Jonah to warn them (God doesn't just wipe them of the face of the earth without warning)
  - God's pity was there all along.



Hosea 11:1-9

**And  
should  
I not  
pity  
Nineveh?**

**Jonah 4:11**



- Jonah warns us against letting our anger, hatred, hurt, prejudices to keep us from being compassionate.
  - Be compassionate by offering help to make things right.
  - Give them a chance to repent
    - Teach them, admonition them compassionately (firmly)
  - If they do repent ... then I need to forgive:
    - let go of the anger
    - embrace compassion.



- Forgiveness is just the beginning of the process in restoring a relationship

- Psalms 103:1-5 (ESV) 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
- and all that is within me,
- bless his holy name!
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
- and forget not all his benefits,
- 3 who forgives all your iniquity,
- who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the pit,
- who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- 5 who satisfies you with good
- so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
-

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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## Do You Do Well to be Angry

Jonah

Synopsis: One of biggest issues with forgiving others is dealing with our anger. God teaches us the importance of pity.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**