

JONAH 3:10-4:11

THE TRAGEDY OF A PROPHET

A Study by Mark Paynter

The study that follows is divided into three readings with a set of questions following each reading. To get the most out of your study please read the text through several times and then reread the selected passage again several times before attempting to answer the questions. Answer each set of questions from the passage.

Read Jonah 3:10-4:11

Then ask

Contrast the Lord's response to the change in Nineveh (Jonah 3:10) to Jonah's (Jonah 4:1)? Who did Jonah consider to be in the wrong? Who was he angry with?

What was Jonah's reason for fleeing the presence of the Lord and going to Tarshish (Jonah 4:2)? What did Jonah say that he knew about the Lord in Jonah 4:2b? What do we learn about the Lord from the words of Jonah? Do we know that these things about the Lord are true ourselves, have we experienced the Lord's working in our own lives or the lives of others in this way? Take time to encourage each other from your own experience.

What did Jonah pray in Jonah 4:3? Why did he make this request? Have you ever been in a place where you have prayed in a similar way?

How did the Lord respond to Jonah in Jonah 4:4? How has the Lord responded to you when you have cried to him in despair?

What did Jonah do in Jonah 4:5? Why did he take this action? What do you think he was hoping to see? What did the Lord provide for Jonah in Jonah 4:6? Why did the Lord provide this? What was Jonah's attitude to what the Lord provided? What did the Lord send in Jonah 4:7? Why did the Lord send this? What happened in Jonah 4:8? What was Jonah's attitude and what did he pray? What question did the Lord ask Jonah in Jonah 4:9 and what was Jonah's response? What did the Lord say to Jonah 4:10-11? What lesson/s was the Lord trying to teach Jonah through this incident?

What has the Lord provided for you in your own life? What does that provision demonstrate to you about the Lord's concern and love for you? What is your attitude towards that provision?

What would your attitude be like if you found yourself in a difficult situation and saw the Lord provide you with something to help you in that situation and a short time later seen that provision removed? How would you respond to the Lord? Why would the Lord do such a thing? What lessons could such a situation teach you and how would it help you grow in the Lord?