

THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S MERCY

Jonah 4:1-11

I. God's mercy is beyond our comprehension and doesn't always follow our agenda.

II. God demonstrates His character through His mercy.

III. Central Point: God's ultimate demonstration of His mercy is in the cross of Jesus.

IV. God uses His creation to show His mercy for His purposes.

V. God desires for us to be merciful to one another.

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1. Have you ever been angry when God has demonstrated His mercy to someone you don't think deserved it? How did this make you look at your own heart? 2 Peter 3:9, Luke 11:15-32.
2. Read Jonah 4:2. Discuss these traits of God. How does that help us understand how He shows mercy to those undeserving. Micah 7:18-20, Ex. 34:5-7, Psalm 136, Eph. 2:1-10, Psalm 103:8-13, 145:8, Neh. 9:17, Num. 14:17-19, 2 Chron. 30:9, Micah 7:18, Deut. 5:10.
3. How does the experience of Jonah point us to Jesus? What does He mean: "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice?" Luke 11:29-32, Matt. 9:13, Hos. 6:6.
4. Discuss how Jesus is the ultimate demonstration of God's mercy to us. Eph. 2:1-10, Rom. 13:11, Eph. 5:13-14, Jonah 1:6, Eph. 2:1.
5. God uses a vine, a worm, and a scorching wind to get Jonah's attention. Describe how these things are merciful and for what purpose is God using them? Lam. 3:22-24
6. How are we to be merciful to one another in the church? Matt. 18:32-35.
7. How should our mercy be manifested in evangelism for the sake of the gospel? Are evangelism and mercy related? How so?

