

Shady Characters

So far we have learned... God loves everyone and we do not....We are all connected to one another
....God lovingly pursues His Children....God allows desperation to bring transformation.

Last week Jonah preached an uninspiring 8 word sermon and we learned about revival. We learned that when we bend...God moves. The greatest miracle in the book of Jonah has nothing to do with the great fish. The greatest miracle is that 120K Ninevites fell on their faces and worshiped God.

Jonah should be full of joy! It should be an evangelists dream....preach....120K surrender to Christ, but Jonah has a problem... Jonah hates them.

They are not like him. The Ninevites know nothing about Jewish Law. Nothing about the temple sacrifices. Nothing about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob,.... God's message is only for the Jews...these pagans don't deserve him

They don't deserve the compassion of the God of ISRAEL They are sinners...they do disgusting things..they deserve God's punishment. We will see that Jonah stands behind his religion...His title...His view of God....and judges others. While the real God is trying to teach him to love others.

In fact the last chapter of Jonah, we see the full disclosure of Jonah's heart and it is ugly.

Jonah is a messed up person. God has told him to do something and he is not doing it. Like an idiot he runs from God....thn he finally does what God wants but only because he has to

He has a bunch of rules. His religion...His rules...His position as a Jew has become more important than his relationship with God. Unfortunately, Jonah is a lot like us. He expects people who have never heard about God to do what God wants them to do. Expects pagans to act like saints and then judges them as unworthy when he is the one who was supposed to go tell them about God in the first place.

He sits in the comfort of what God has given him but not really appreciating it. His is not grateful or thankful. But he takes great pride as being one of God's people as if he deserved it

He hates people who are not like him. Judges them for breaking the laws of a God they have never met. He has no room for compassion for them because he is so full of love for himself

At times he acts like God needs him Rather than the other way around.... No doubt...Jonah was messed up

And so am I.

The more I study Jonah...the more I see myself sometimes. In fact...by judging Jonah....I become Jonah.

Have you sat in the security and comfort of your walk with Christ and looked down on others?

Have you placed your religion ahead of what God wants to do? Looking down on others who don't live in a way that honors God? Forgetting that they don't yet know God. Ignoring that they might actually know God and live lives that honor Him... If you would tell them about him... but that hasn't happened yet.... because you would rather judge them. Somehow judging them...make you feel better about yourself

Maybe you have allowed the man made rules of your religion to become more important than your relationship with Jesus. More important than your love and compassion for others ...And in the process have made yourself more important than you really are?

Do you remember that I said We are all Jonah's? My idol was my title as a Doctor, my education, my position, and my money. Maybe for you it is your.... Social status.... Your business.... Your health.... Your position.... Your race... Your nationality.... Your political affiliation... Your body There are a million idols out there that we place ahead of God.

Jonah's idol was his religion His birthright as a Jew His understanding of Scriptures His standing in the temple His title as a prophet of God His belief that the God of the Jews was only for the Jews Jonah gets to the point where he believes that he knows what God wants....More than God does...

Jonah 3:10 (ESV) 10 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.

Jonah Preached and Revival Broke Out. There was a Spiritual Bomb dropped on Nineveh. God had been working in their circumstances too...Jonah has hit the mother load. He preached and they actually repented but Jonah has a heart that is far from God and God loves him too much to leave him that way

Jonah 4:1 (ESV) 4 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry.

It displeased Jonah exceedingly; literally, it was evil to Jonah, a great evil. It was more than mere displeasure which he felt; he was vexed and irritated.

You have to do a word study to understand Jonah's heart Jonah is not just an upset whiny kid. He is far worse...far deeper....much darker. His hatred for the Assyrians is not just a passing emotion for Jonah. His prejudice and racism is at the core of who he is.

The word for displeasure is the Hebrew word "Rah" The same word was used in Chapter 1 God said call out to Nineveh because their rah...their evil has come before me. The word rah is translated in Ch 1 as evil and here as displeased.

Jonah is not just saying.... I am disappointed..a little upset... Jonah is saying "God what you did... Your mercy being poured out on those Assyrians Is evil...not just evil..... But just as the evil of the Ninevites that came before you repulsed you... Your mercy for them repulses me

Jonah is equating God's Mercy As being the same as the sins of Nineveh Jonah is literally calling God a sinner. He is saying...'God you have done something evil and you have sinned in your mercy toward them"

This displeased Jonah exceedingly Extremely. Jonah was angry and the word for angry here means "to burn"

Jonathan Swift wrote some verse that expresses Jonah's frame of mind: We are God's chosen few, All others will be damned; There is no place in heaven for you, We can't have heaven crammed.

So we begin to see Jonah's heart...It has been danced around in this story so far....We know Jonah doesn't like the Ninevites but it now boils over. What Jonah is saying here is..... God's mercy was evil and sinful to Jonah and he burned with anger. Jonah is not just pouting here Jonah is calling God as sinner Because of His mercy toward a people who Jonah believes cannot be used by God .A people who according to Jonah cannot be God's Children.

So why is Jonah so angry? Listen to his prayer now....

Jonah 4:2–3 (ESV) 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."

This description of God is a common one in Scripture. In fact, in Scripture God describes Himself this way. I am a gracious, steadfast God. Merciful and slow to anger ...Abounding in love.

Jonah is taking God's words about Himself and throwing them back in His face. Jonah is trying to justify himself. God, I knew you would do something crazy like this and save Nineveh. That is why I ran away! What you did is evil to me! God, you have sinned by giving grace to these people.

We are beginning to see how dirty Jonah's heart really is. Jonah is spiritually acting like a 4 year old. For those of you with young children, just think of their worst days...their whiniest days... That tantrum when they don't get what they want. Their complaints don't even make sense. They get bent out of shape...over nothing.

But Jonah is even worse than that... Jonah is a self-righteous religious whiny baby. But Jonah is a grown man... He is a Jew, one of God's people. He is a prophet of God. He is well studied...He is God's mouthpiece. Jonah should know better.

This is not a momentary lapse for Jonah. The ugliness of his heart is pouring over. Jonah preached a sermon....

Jonah 3:4 (ESV) "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

He hoped that what he preached would come true. But to his horror...the people start to repent....the turn to God...Revival breaks out. Jonah is beside himself...he is undone. He is convinced that his cause is just. That his anger and indignation at God is justified. Because there are rules and God appears to be breaking them.

Jonah believed..... That God's grace is only for the Nation of Israel. He is a nationalist. He believes God's grace is just for the historical people of Israel.

So his question is "How could these people be saved?" Without the law, the prophets and the customs of Israel. They don't know the Scriptures... they don't know about the temple. Their prayers are lame...they don't even have hymns.

How could these people be saved who are not Israel? Who do not follow the customs and rules of Israel. Who do not look like God's people...the Jews. More than a nationalist...Jonah is a racist.

Jonah excludes God's grace from all races. These people were sinful, culturally different, and didn't have the law and the prophets. How could God possibly pour out his mercy and compassion on a people like this? These things are irreconcilable in Jonah's mind. God could never save these people.

Jonah is a religious man, but his heart is far from God. Jonah has the appearance of godliness...The external rules, but denies his power-The internal love and compassion of God. Jonah is the prequel to the Pharisees. Jonah is a religious man who piles rule upon rule. He sits in his self-righteousness and looks down on all the other nations, all the other people who are not like him.

Jonah hated the Ninevites. Jonah wants a god made in his own Narrowed Hearted Image. Jonah is focused on religion...Religion has become his idol. And for that reason...it opposes the things of God. Jonah cares about his religion more than the things of God.

We can make almost anything our religion. Set up our own rules, definitions, customs, expectations as our own idols. We place these things ahead of Jesus Christ. We create our own idols which could be anything. It could be our money, our talents, our looks, our successes, our government, our patriotism, our church, our traditions, our ideas....It is in these things that we seem to find our purpose. Here I am justified...righteous...find my value... Here is where I am made significant. We can make almost anything our religion. Religion is where we place other things ahead of God.

Jonah is faced with a choice between His religious reputation and following the one true Creator and Sovereign God of the universe.

Think about what happens to Jonah's street cred if God doesn't wipe out the Ninevites. He would become a failed prophet. He said 40 days and Nineveh will be destroyed. If that does not happen...the punishment when he gets home is death.

The Israelites may say.... The people of Nineveh are now God's people? This can't be of God. Jonah was not alone in his strong sense of Nationalism. Jonah chooses his own reputation rather than what God wants. He would rather hold on to his religion than follow God. Let's keep reading...

Jonah 4:3 (ESV) 3 Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

Jonah throughout represents himself as petty, hasty, and self-willed, prone to exaggerate matters, and easily reduced to despair. Here, because his word is not fulfilled, he wishes to die, though he will not take his own life. He would rather die than see God love the unloveable. It is not uncommon for prophets to ask God to take their life. Both Moses and Elijah did it.

Exodus 32:30–32 (ESV) 30 The next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." 31 So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. 32 But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written."

1 Kings 19:4–5 (ESV) 4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." 5 And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat."

Spiritual leaders are called by God to lead, usually reluctantly, and at some point I think everyone of them just wants out.

The call that God puts on those He chooses to lead is a covenant. It can't be broken. Just like the covenant of marriage it is till death do us part.

Moses, Elijah, and Jonah can't stay on earth and not fulfill the mission that God has given them. They are called by God for a life of service. They didn't choose the call, often I think didn't want the call, but it is not their call....God put it on their life. They want out. They have no choice of walking away. Remember Jonah has already tried to do that. Those truly called by God don't really have the spiritual option of quitting.

And I love that God gives us the examples of these Spiritual men and lets us know that they struggled too. Remember, Jonah wrote this book about himself. I am sure that this part he would have preferred to leave out. But the struggle of godly men with the call of God is a huge part of this story.

Jonah couldn't run...he ended up as a gastric emptying study. He couldn't retreat to the hills because we will soon learn that God scorched him in his anger. I think every prophet seriously wrestled with God. I am so thankful that God includes that struggle in the Scriptures.

Every time God calls you to action...there is a battle within your flesh...be ready for it, embrace it, and then kill it. Remember that it is ok to argue with God, to be honest about your feelings, to share your displeasure....but remember those issues are written in disappearing ink. When you are done dumping...you have to confess. It is a sin to argue with God. It is his grace and mercy and love for you that allows it. But those things also prevent you from staying there. In the end, we all, who call Jesus Lord, agree that He is right and we were wrong. Jonah is learning that lesson now.

The repentance and salvation of the people of Nineveh is so painful to Jonah that he would rather die than think about it; and he also states that this was the reason he fled the call—not out of fear that he would be ineffective, but fear that he would be effective!

Death is better than ... My broken reputation My broken religion...My broken idols...Jonah would rather die than have to experience these things.

Jonah 4:3–4 (ESV) 4 And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

I cannot believe God did not zap Jonah. If I were God and a man I created called me a sinner because of my love, compassion and grace... I would vaporize him. Jonah deserved to get smoked.

But God tried to continually love him, teach him, redirect him and arrange the circumstances of his life to bring Jonah to a point of repentance.

And God loves Him too much to not teach him the lesson that he must learn no matter how badly Jonah acts in the process. God is essentially saying here... "Jonah is this working for you?"

Jonah, in expressing his anger against God, was being honest about his feelings—something good; but we should not for a moment think that all of our feelings towards God are justified.

God likes to ask us questions, because they reveal our heart. It also put us on proper ground before God, because He has every right to question us and we owe Him answers.

Where are you? Who told you that you were naked? What is this you have done? (Genesis 3) •
Where is your brother Abel? What have you done? (Genesis 4) • What have you done? (1 Samuel 13:11) • Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? (2 Samuel 12) •
Whom shall I send? Who will go for us? (Isaiah 6) Who do you say that I am? (Matthew 16) •
What do you want Me to do for you? (Matthew 20) Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss? (Luke 22) • Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? (Acts 9)

He asked Jonah: Is it right for you to be angry? And the answer must always be “No, Lord. All Your ways are right even if I don’t understand them.” Yes, Jonah was angry towards God, and yes, it was all right for Jonah to state his anger towards God; but he must also repent of his anger towards God.

Jonah 4:5 (ESV) 5 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.

Went out of the city. It must have been before the end of the forty days that Jonah perceived that Nineveh would escape. And now, he seems to have conceived the expectation that some catastrophe would still happen; as though God had told him that he was too hasty in his judgment, that he could not know the mind of God, and that because he did not strike immediately he was not to conclude that he would not strike at all.

On the east side of the city. The opposite side to that by which he had entered, and where the high ground enabled him to overlook the town, without necessarily sharing in its destruction.

A booth. A tent constructed of branches interlaced, which did not exclude the sun What would become of the city. He still expected that some calamity would befall the Ninevites, perhaps with the idea that their repentance would prove so imperfect and temporary that God would punish them after all.

So a revival runs rampant in the city and Jonah goes out of town...You would think he would be in town celebrating what God has done but he is so blinded by his religion That he is missing the miracles of God

He continues east through the city and sits down to see what will happen. Jonah builds a booth....for himself..A shady hut...with leaves over the top that provides some shade but Jonah is still miserable both physically and spiritually probably looking down from a hill onto the city. Jonah is probably counting down the days till 40 when these people finally get what they deserve. Hoping that they will not repent...hoping that God will destroy them

He told God that God was wrong. Now he either wants to see them destroyed ...Or HE wants to be destroyed He wants to see God rain down burning fire on Nineveh. Then he could go home and tell them the great story Of how an awesome God destroyed Nineveh And protected Israel

Jonah 4:5–6 (ESV) 6 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.

Jerome describes this as a shrub called in Syriac elkeroa, and common in the sandy regions of Palestine. It has large leaves and grows to a considerable height in a very few days,

Just as God prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah, now He prepares a particular plant to shelter Jonah as he waited hoping that they city would be destroyed.

Note what God is doing. He is still caring for and protecting Jonah even when Jonah is arguing with Him and challenging Him. God is making Jonah a "Shady Character"

Many Times God appoints something in Jonah's life. Each time God appoints something....He is making A Point.

First God appointed a storm....Then God appointed a fish....Now God appoints a plant...and in the next verse He will appoint a worm...He will appoint a hot wind....He is about to make a point.

Each time it is a painful object lesson for Jonah. God appoints to make a point.

God is being merciful to Jonah to lead him to repent. God appoints a plant to provide shade over his head To save him from his discomfort. Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant This is the first time in this book that Jonah is happy about anything

He is not happy that God saved 120K people But he is happy for what God did for him

Jonah relied upon and took for granted the shade of the plant...He did nothing to make it grow yet he is exceedingly glad about it

Jonah relied upon his religion and status as one of God's people...a Jew. but he had nothing to do with becoming a Jew Yet he took great pride in it. He has a sense of Nationalism that is irrevocable in Jonah's mind. He is part of God's people and Nineveh is not. He didn't create the plant and he didn't create his position under God

God is going to take both of these things away Both the shade... and his privileged position God is crushing Jonah's religion...Taking down his idols And Jonah is so upset...He is so sure that his religion is right...That HE is right ...That his religion is right.... That he charges God...the creator and author of that religion of breaking those rules.

You know that you have gone to far in your religion when you get to the point of charging God with breaking the rules that you have made. And being more concerned about appearances than what God wants. Jonah's heart is ugly...and he is deadly serious.

Jonah 4:7–8 (ESV) 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. 8 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."

He appointed a worm and a wind. God has a point to make. God takes the shade and creates a heat wave It is scorching...burning Jonah like Jonah's anger burns God.

The ancient Hebrew word for "angry" is literally "to be hot." Now God will let Jonah feel some of the heat!

This is why I don't like Jonah. You saved the Ninevites, please God I want to die....You gave me some shade so ok God I will stick around a while....oh you took away the shade...God let me die...it is so childish...so petty...so....us.

Jonah 4:9 (ESV) 9 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."

Jonah, in response to God's question, felt totally justified in his anger . God took away Jonah's plant! Jonah had absolutely nothing to do with it. It was a gift from God. But the moment God gave it to him....it was his. Jonah does what we all do. God blesses us with something and we think we did it. That we own it...that we deserve it...

Jonah made three errors that angry people often make. Each of these things put Jonah in a worse place, not a better place. • Jonah quit • Jonah separated himself from others • Jonah became a spectator

It is right for me to be angry, even to death! These are the last words of Jonah recording in this book, but thankfully they are not the last words of the book.

Look at how horrible Jonah's heart is. He has called out God as a sinner And would rather die than give up his religion If God takes away a blessing....he would rather die. He is right and God is wrong. We serve a patient and compassionate God...I would have zapped him.

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."

Jonah..you did nothing to do with the plant Much like you had nothing to do with your status as a Jew. Your position as a religious leader or your selection as my prophet

Jonah's Heart is ugly. I would rather die than see those people saved by God. My rules are more important than God. My religion is more important than what God wants to do. But look at God's Heart...

Jonah 4:11 (ESV) 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,

God loves people and we do not. Jonah is freaking out about the death of a plant....while sitting on a hill overlooking a city that he hopes God will annihilate. God says....Jonah these are people....people made in my image...people who don't yet know me....people..who...were just like you....Your heart is so ugly...and it seems...my prophet...you don't know my heart at all.

Those who cannot discern between their right hand and their left This was an idiom during their time that was used to describe someone who could not make up their mind. It was used to refer to two different groups of people.

First it was used to describe very young children. Children who did not know which hand was the strongest and fittest for use; or, metaphorically, those who were too young to really understand good and evil yet and thus, at present, incapable of moral discernment. God is reminding Jonah that there are children...lots of them....playing at the playground....they are children...just like his...

The second group that this idiom represented were those who were void of or very spiritually immature. They knew their right from left physically, but not spiritually. They were lost like little children trying to find their way.

Jonah's heart is filled with hatred, racism, Nationalism and Religiosity. God's heart is full of compassion, mercy, forgiveness,

We have a compassionate God A God who goes after lost people There is only one seeker movement and it is God's...God is seeking lost people

But something deeper is also going on here. Israel has always been represented in Scripture figuratively as a plant....a vine...tended to by God.

The symbolism is important here. Israel is the plant on the hill....overlooking the good news being taken to the pagans....and rather than celebrating...they are withering...withering in their arrogance of their status as God's people. This is a foreshadowing of the Gentile era that we are now living in.

God is trying to show Jonah his compassion You pity plant... Should not I pity a great city? Full of people I created? Full of people that I love...and by the way you do not.

They don't know their right hand from their left They don't know about me yet. They are confused Don't know darkness from light...Lies from truth They just don't understand

They don't know what you know Jonah They didn't have the blessing of growing up in Israel They didn't know about my Laws and the Prophets They are lost...and I have pity on them...all 120K of them...My heart goes out to them

Jonah 4:11 (ESV) 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?"

Also by the way..I created the animals there as well. You seem to care about a plant..... So if you don't care about the Ninevites..... Could you at least care a bit about the animals? They haven't done anything to you.

Today God might have said....an so many puppies, kittens, dogs and cats?

Interesting that this book ends with God's question. The story is ours to end. Not because of Jonah....we know Jonah eventually repents because we have read the out of place chapter 2. But this question is not for Jonah...it is for us. Jonah is now teaching us....at his own expense...about the lesson he learned.

The lesson is clear: not only does God's concern for people go beyond Israel, but He is totally justified in doing so. The lesson of Jonah reminds us that God is the God of all people. Remember one of our key points from earlier in this series. God loves everyone and we do not....and....Salvation belongs to the Lord and the Lord alone.

The lesson of Jonah is what he proclaimed before being freed from the great fish: Salvation is of the Lord (Jonah 2:9), and not of any race or nation or class. This is the same message God made clear to Peter

Acts 10:34–35 (ESV) 34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

Do you know that? I mean do you really know that? Salvation belongs to God and God offers it to anyone He chooses? Every church that I know has people sitting up on the hill...under the shade that God provided for them...hoping that God will bring judgment upon them....when God instead plans to bring revival. We don't sit on a hill today hoping that churches we have judged fail..we retreat to Facebook.

We have seen this in our church. Many have left because they can't accept that God brings the same salvation to the homeless...the drug addicted...the alcoholic...the mentally ill...those with criminal records...those the world and many other churches have literally "over...looked. " In the shade of their salvation, they demand that God deny salvation to others. At least Jonah was honest enough to actually say it.

It has been the story of the ministry and call that God has placed on Tammy and I for over 20 years. It is why we are a Remnant. The hills around our church are full of people who wish to deny salvation to others. They will deny it, clean it up, find some other reason, some other excuse...but the hills are full nonetheless.

We have likely all spend our time as shady characters...up on our high point... wishing God's judgment upon those we have deemed unworthy. I have been there and done that....but God will not allow you to stay there. God made sure that Jonah learned His lesson. And He does the same with us.

God's church has no place for those who claim to be saved and then deny that gift to others.

The door at Remnant is an entrance for Christ followers who love everyone and an exit for those who do not.

So fellow Jonah's....as we close out this amazing book Let me challenge you to examine your heart Is your religion in the way of your relationship with God? Are you sitting in the shade overlooking a city of people desperate for God..... In the booth that you have built for yourself Your rules...your self-righteousness... your position in God's family Your worship style...Your preferences of the way church must be Your love for yourself

Shady characters prideful of a relationship with God that we had nothing to do with? The salvation you did not earn and didn't deserve. The gift of God's mercy....God's compassion...Gods' Love that you could never repay and can only give praise and thanks for. Deciding for yourself which people deserve to be part of God's family Setting your rules and expectations above the compassion and love of God.

Church our salvation was a gift. We didn't earn it. We don't deserve it. We don't own it. We don't choose who gets it. We are either in the midst of the revival celebrating what God is doing, or we are out on the hills celebrating ourselves and scorching in our anger.

Last week I preached about revival.I mentioned that sometimes we don't really want revival because it is inconvenient for us...God may ask us to love people whose lifestyles, culture, race, or personality we don't like He asks us to love the homeless...the rich...every race...the drug addicted...the arrogance addicted...the self righteous....the unrighteous....every person. We are to embrace those who don't agree with us to hate the sin but still love the sinner.

To introduce people whose choices dishonor God To the very God who transforms them God will make us face our prejudices in order to gain His perspective

Wednesday night we had an incredible time of prayer. I encourage you to join us each Wednesday night at 6pm. We Bend....and God moves. You may have asked...what exactly do we bend? We bend under the weight of God's love....God's love for every person He has created...and every person you have ever laid eyes upon. You see we have to bend....because God and His purposes never do. God was going to offer His salvation to the Ninevites...He made that clear to Jonah in chapter 1....and Jonah ran. Jonah was either going to bend or break but either way....salvation was coming to Nineveh because GOD said so.

We cannot authentically pray for revival in ourselves, our church and our community. If we are unwilling to love everyone...You see we are all Jonah's....

God loves everyone and we do not....We are all connected to one anotherGod lovingly pursues His Children....God allows desperation to bring transformation...Salvation belongs to God...Revival comes from God...and God will make us face our prejudices to gain His perspective. It is not a children's story....it is our story...please God bend us...Let's Pray