



## Life's Most Difficult and Dangerous Rescue

Jonah 4:1-11 (HCSB)

*But Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the Lord: "Please, Lord, isn't this what I said while I was still in my own country? That's why I fled toward Tarshish in the first place. I knew that You are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to become angry, rich in faithful love, and One who relents from sending disaster. <sup>3</sup> And now, Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup> The Lord asked, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup> Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. He made himself a shelter there and sat in its shade to see what would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord God appointed a plant and it grew up to provide shade over Jonah's head to ease his discomfort. Jonah was greatly pleased with the plant. <sup>7</sup> When dawn came the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, and it withered. <sup>8</sup> As the sun was rising, God appointed a scorching east wind. The sun beat down so much on Jonah's head that he almost fainted, and he wanted to die. He said, "It's better for me to die than to live." <sup>9</sup> Then God asked Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "Yes," he replied. "It is right. I'm angry enough to die!" <sup>10</sup> So the Lord said, "You cared about the plant, which you did not labor over and did not grow. It appeared in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> Should I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than 120,000 people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals?"*

### 1. We are more loved than we realize. (Jonah 4:2)

- In our rebellion and resentment God's extravagant love for us still stands.

Romans 2:4 (NLT)

*Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?*

### 2. We are more broken than we ever imagined.

- Spiritual maturity will always be reflected in a burden for the lost.

Ezekiel 33:11 (NIV)

*Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?'*

- We love to sing amazing grace just not give amazing grace.
- We celebrate grace for salvation but ignore it for our growth.
- Our rescue begins when we see scripture as a mirror and not binoculars. (Psalm 139:23-24)

### 3. We will never be free without first going to Nineveh. (Ephesians 4:32)

- Ninevites often bear the most extravagant gifts.
- Ninevites are never the real enemy; merely a trapped trophy of the enemy. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)
- Ninevites have always been the ones God has hand-picked for His team.