Jonah—A Prophet on The Run

Week Four – Chapter Four

Chapter Highlights

- 4:1 "This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry."
- 4:2 Jonah knew scripture and quotes Exodus 34:6 where God is said to be "merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love [hesed]."
- 4:2 Jonah's inner thoughts about God's likely repenting of his plans were not recounted in chapter one; Jonah knew that God knew his innermost private thoughts
- 4:4 God says, "Is it right for you to be angry about this [my change of plans]?"
- 4:5 Jonah sits in a shelter with a nice leafy plant providing more shade as he is set to enjoy seeing the great city of Nineveh wiped out

Discussion Questions

- 1. Jonah quotes Scripture in his anger at God. What role does/has memorization of Scripture played in your life? Share details.
- 2. What is going on with "Just kill me now, Lord! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen"?
- 3. Any significance to you of Jonah going to "the east side of Nineveh"? Are the "shelter" and the "leafy plant" redundant? Why did Jonah need a plant for shade if he is sitting inside the shelter he built?
- 4. How do you feel about the book of Jonah ending with God's unanswered question: "Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?"
- 5. Other reactions, reflections, and questions from chapter four?