

# The Lord is Merciful

Scripture: **Jonah 1:1–16**

Series: **Mercy and Justice: A Study in the Book of Jonah**

Sunday, June 7, 2015



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## Overview

We live in a broken world, and the world needs God's mercy. God is abounding in steadfast love for sinners and He desires that everyone come to repentance, even Gentile nations. Oftentimes we, like Jonah, disobey God and run from his will, since we may not think others are deserving of God's favor and mercy. But God defines justice on His terms, not ours. We should trust that God's ways are better than our ways, and we should stop trying to run from God and acknowledge that there's nowhere we can go to escape His presence.

## Corroborating Texts

1 John 2:2; 2 Peter 3:9; Exodus 3:7; Psalm 1:1–2; Proverbs 3:5; Revelation 2:4

## Discussion Questions

1. What was the main point of the sermon? [the Lord is merciful, yet Jonah refused to be part of God's plan for mercy] Why did Jonah refuse? [fear of man; disobedience in following God's will; lack of trust in God's plans and purposes]
2. Why did Jonah want the Ninevites condemned? Do we sometimes want others condemned? If so, why? Why is it sometimes difficult to have compassion for those who believe and act differently than we do?
3. Do you have a burden for the lost? What are some reasons we may not feel this burden? [pride; complacency; apathy] Do you sometimes wish our message was easier to proclaim?
4. Do you sometimes find yourself wanting others to suffer when they have wronged you? Why do you think it's difficult to desire mercy for others in these situations? What does it say about our own hearts?
5. Are you in pain or depression? Have you cried out to God? Do you ever wonder where God is in the midst of your pain and suffering? What might keep you from crying out to God? [silence; fear; judgment]
6. Have you ever wanted to turn away from something you knew God wanted you to do? If so, why? What was holding you back?