

Daily Devotional, November 25, 2020

'Stubborn Pride', (Jonah 4:9, NKJV)

“It is right for me to be angry, even to death!” (Jonah 4:9)

Jonah is often called “The Reluctant Prophet.” God told him to go to Nineveh to preach a message of repentance, but he went off in another direction. The Lord caught up to Jonah and re-commissioned him according to the original plan. So Jonah went to Nineveh, that wicked city, and there was widespread repentance as a result of his preaching by many people great and small. This actually disappointed the prophet. Jonah saw those people only as enemies of his own nation Israel, and not wicked sinners in need of repentance unto salvation. God gave him a plant for shade and took it away, to get Jonah’s attention. At this Jonah began to sulk. The plant was just the last straw. Jonah was really just not happy with the way things were going, and the revival in Nineveh. The divine commentary reads, *“But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry”* (Jonah 4:1).

We all like things to go our own way. We want our family ordered a certain way, we want things to be done at work a certain way, and we want other people to march to the beat of our drum—which is something many of us won’t admit to all that much. Was it right for Jonah to be angry? How far was he going to take his anger in his stubborn pride over not getting his own way? Let me ask you some questions. Are you happy when your enemy prospers? Are you happy if the Lord chooses someone else to bless in a certain way that you thought you should be blessed? Are you harboring any anger against someone that is making you bitter? Are you angry with God or confused by His justice? We read the story of Jonah and chuckle at what we can clearly see in another is not sensible behavior and attitude. But do we do the same, and rob ourselves of peace and joy because of our own stubborn pride? Let’s take a good look at that in ourselves today.