

# **The Lord's Compassion**

**Bro. Kevin Jones**

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ our King, immortal, invincible, and matchless. If you don't know Him as that, I pray that today you get to know Him as that. I count it a great joy to be with you all this morning. Every time I get to preach, even open up the Bible, and do a morning devotion with my family, I'm shocked and appalled that the Lord would call me to do anything in His Kingdom, anything for Him because of how I rejected Him. How even in my own heart even today, if I'm not careful, we don't love Him rightly and properly, so these moments are always frightening for me. We deal diligently with the hearts of men and women, and so I pray now that you will continue to pray with me even now. Thank you, Pastor Ricky, for allowing me an opportunity to stand here. I thank the DNOW crew for inviting me here to be with you all. I told the first service and I will tell the third, evidently I didn't blow it last year, or I blew it so bad they came back and said, hey, come and fix everything that you blew, so we will figure this thing out one way or the other. If you're not a member here, Pastor Ricky did not ask me to say this, but I'm going to take it that he won't be alarmed by this, if you are not a member, you ought to strongly consider joining this church. His pastoral care displayed there before the baptism explaining the genre of music and the songs, that is called shepherding, that is called great pastoral care, and that is why he has a longstanding ministry today. That's why. If you're like, oh, I'm not sure if I should join this church, yay or nay, come and sit at his feet and learn from him. That is a great display of what we're called to do as pastors. So brother, I thank you for modeling, even for me as a young pastor, on how to diligently handle the flock. I'm thankful for you, thankful for you and your ministry.

I greet you in the name of Forest Baptist Church in Louisville, KY. I serve at Southern Seminary in Boyce College, but all of those things are secondary to the message that I have to preach and to proclaim to you this

morning. All those things are secondary. I could be a garbage man in Texas for all that matters, but I came today to proclaim Jesus Christ. That's what this moment is about. So I'm going to pray for us, I'm going to walk through the book of Job, and I'm going to try to catch us up to speed through chapters 1, chapter 2, chapter 3, and will spend most of my time today in chapter 4 making sense of Jonah and the Lord's compassion. So if I could title this sermon today, I would title it, "The Lord's Compassion." It may be a subheading in your Bible that says something like that, like Jonah and his hard heart and the Lord's compassion, or Jonah's stupor and the Lord's love and kind for him. But if I could title this text, I would love to title it the Lord's compassion. I will do some historical stuff to kind of bring us up to speed because most of you have probably not been studying Jonah for the last week or so. So I going to pray for us and then I'm going to dive into the Bible this morning.

(Prayer)

Oh Lord, our God, we are thankful again for this moment. Father, it blows my mind that You love me and us. How amazing You are, Father. Give me the capacity right now to make plain the truths in Your Scripture. Let me explain the story, let me preach this text as You would have it preached and explained for this moment for the people that are in this room right now. Father, don't let me fumble right now. Let me hold tightly to the truths of Scripture and allow them to come out of my heart, that I'm not seen or glorified, but that You are exalted, that You are high and lifted up, and that maybe there is some unbeliever who does not know You, let them see You. Maybe there is some wayward Christian who is weak, Father would you show them a new display and a new facet of who You are today, Father, that we may have a greater appreciation for You. Father, when I sit down, I just want to hear You say, "Well done." I have an audience of one, Father, and it is You. Would You please be pleased with what I say right now? Convict hearts and comfort hearts, and let Your Word take deep root in us. In Jesus matchless name I pray, and I believe, amen.

What is the context of Jonah? What's going on in the book of Jonah? Why did God, out of all of the books, include the book of Jonah in the Bible?

Why did He pick Jonah? What's up with that? He is sovereign, He does whatever He pleases, that's one answer, but let me explain it just a little bit further. Nineveh is a great city, great metropolitan area, walls one hundred feet wide and thick, and fifty feet high. It was surrounded, a hard and almost impenetrable city. You couldn't get in to the city of Nineveh if they didn't let you into the city of Nineveh. They have a well-guarded, well taken care of city. Its geographic expanse was huge as well as its influence, large metropolitan area. With the Lord our God, what we see and what gets displayed in the book of Jonah is God not only loves little foreign town cities, but He's after the hearts and the minds of the large metropolitan areas as well. Not only is a small area His, but a medium sized area is His, and a large city is His, every nation is His, and the whole world is His. The world is His footstool, and His heart beat for Israel just like it beat for Nineveh. The Israelites were like, what's up with this Lord? We thought we were Your chosen people. We see in Romans 11:11 that the Lord said, "Because you rejected Me, O Israel, I will cut you off, and I will graft in Gentiles. All the earth is the Lord's." He is jealous for all of His creation, so He sent Jonah, in some sense, as a foreign missionary to go and make disciples, to go and teach and proclaim His Word to the hardhearted people in Nineveh. They were knee deep in sin and the Lord said Jonah, go. If he had not forsaken his own people, there are many Minor Prophets, many Major Prophets, who were speaking and proclaiming the same message in the Bible. Hosea is one example. Hosea is pleading with his people, Israel; Israel, please come back to me. The Lord's arms are open, He is feeding you, and He is taking care of you, even as you whore with idols. He is here for you and His heart beats for you, Israel.

Now, Jonah gets to see that not only does His heart beat for Israel; His heart also beats for Nineveh. What we get to see, saints, is His heart not only beats for people in Murray KY, and in your own home, His heart beats for the whole world. Revelations 7:9-10 says every nation, every tribe, every tongue will come and bow with the bottom of His feet, saints. How are they going to know unless we go? So He says, Jonah, I have a job for you.

There are three application points I want you to get from this message today.

1. I would like for you to adore God for who He is.

That's the first thing I want you to get. Why do we preach the Bible? We preach the Bible so we can live it. We preach the Bible so that we can live it out. It's not like just some song where you hear a song you like to hear, and say oh yeah, that's my favorite song we can dance to it, and then when it's over, it's over. No, no, no, that's not the preached Word. The preached Word takes root in our heart and then we live it out. So what is one of the things I want you to do? After this message, I want you to adore God for who He is.

2. I would like for you to rejoice when people come to know the Lord, even your enemies, which is difficult.

That's the friction and tension we see worked out in this passage. Even when your enemies come to know the Lord, application number two is to rejoice when people come to know the Lord.

3. I pray that we would have pity on all people who don't know the Lord.

You'll see these application points come to surface as I make my way through the text. Let's do a quick review of Jonah for some of us. Chapter 1, the Lord calls Jonah; hey Jonah, arise; get up and do what it is I'm about to tell you to do. Jonah, like some of us, he jumps up but he doesn't do exactly what the Lord tells him to do. Let's not be too hard on Jonah, ok. Sometimes we can do a cursory read of this and say Jonah, how dare you Jonah! The Lord tells you to do something and you don't do it. Saints, that's all of us, but when the Lord tells us to move, we move in the direction that He tells us to move in. But Jonah does not move in the direction the Lord tells him to move. Jonah 1 tells us, but Jonah, he got up and went in the wrong direction. He didn't go in the wrong direction because the Lord didn't tell him where to go. He got up and went in the opposite direction that the Lord told him to go. Maybe that's you today. It's often good to say Lord, am I in Your will? Am I doing, being, doing exactly

what it is You would have me to do? Then what happens is Jonah gets on this ship to Tarshish, the Lord tells him to go to Nineveh, and he goes to Tarshish, and all these horrible things begin to happen to Jonah on this ship. Yet, they are still in the Lord's grace. What I want to explain is, and I think a key point to highlight here is, Jonah's inability to follow the Lord's directions not only affected him, but the sins that we so waddle in affect the people around us. You don't sin in isolation when you're sinning; it affects everyone around you, at your work, in your home, at your church. Jonah gets to see that. What do you mean? What I mean is when Jonah is on the ship fleeing from the Lord, He hurls a wind at the ocean, and the sea becomes very tempestuous. It becomes rocky out there. I don't even like being on speedboats. The Lord has afforded me and my wife an opportunity to get on speedboats, and I'm driving like, Lord have mercy, look at these waves here, and I'm on a lake! Not the ocean, I've been in the ocean and it is a scary place to be, for me anyway. Some of you are like, I love the water, let me get there. That's my wife, "Take me to the beach," I'm like, "Take me somewhere where there is dry land."

But the sea begins to rock, and here's the deal; the unbelievers in Jonah chapter 1 love Jonah more than he loves the Ninevites and more than he loves himself, because the men on the ship begin to toss aside all of their cargo. They begin to throw their livelihood off the ship so that Jonah's life and their life may be saved! They're trying to row hard back to shore while Jonah is sleeping in his sin, because sin will exhaust you. Everyone else around you is trying to save you, and you're sleep snoring from the chaos because sin exhausts you. Jonah is laying down, knocked out. You've seen people knocked out, you kind of flick them, and they don't budge. You are like, how are you sleeping through this? I'm not saying every hard sleeper is in sin; I'm not saying that at all, let me close the back door on that. It's not like a good after church Sunday nap. I'm going to catch me one today, trust me. But he's fallen fast asleep, and the ship starts to rock back and forth. The man says, what do we do, Jonah? Where are you from? He asks him these five questions, and he says I love the Lord; I serve the Lord, the God of the sea and of the dry land. He said we've got to get rid of you, brother. He said toss me over the side into the ocean. Throw me over! They were like, no, we're going to row hard back. Jonah is suicidal and we

will see that again in chapter 4. He's like, no, I just want to die; instead of going to share the gospel with people, I had rather die, and he says that repeatedly. What a hard heart for Jonah to have! Let that not be us.

Then, reluctantly the men finally toss Jonah over into the sea, and at this point, maybe Jonah is like, yes, I don't have to share the gospel with Nineveh. The Lord is like, no, I'm sending a big fish to swallow you up right now. At the end of chapter 1, the Lord sends a big fish to swallow him. Now, skeptics will say can a fish really swallow a man alive and can it contain a man for three days? Do you know what? The God of all ages spoke everything into existence; this is a small thing for Him. He could have called a fly out of the sky and said captivate Jonah and hold him in your belly for three days and three nights. He could have called an ant because nothing is outside the bounds of His control. We will see in chapter 4, He controls plants, He controls worms, He controls all of the natural elements in the world. He could have called anything, so the next time you're asked if you believe a fish could do that, you say yes, I believe because I believe in the God of all cosmic creation. Then Jonah finds himself in the belly of this fish, and here's the deal, here's what's beautiful about Jonah; he is kind of like this schizophrenic, he loves the Lord, but he's displeased with the Lord, and in Jonah chapter 2 he comes to his senses. Sometimes when we're in the bottom of the ocean, we come to our senses. He says in chapter 2, weeds are wrapped all about my head, here I am sitting at the bottom of the ocean, oh Lord, I have sinned against You. Let me see You rightly, I look to You now, I have forsaken Your love because I worship vain idols. The Lord hears him, and what's good for our saints to know is that even in the midst of sin the Lord can hear us. Satan will tell you that the Lord doesn't want to hear from you. You're so knee deep in your sin, whether you're five or fifty-five or one hundred and five, he will tell you you're so knee deep in your sin, the Lord doesn't want to hear from you. Satan is wrong, and the Lord is right. He is a God of deep love and deep compassion, and even though Jonah is fleeing him, has cost men their livelihoods, and almost their lives, the Lord responds. He even responds before Jonah prays. He responds with a fish. He already had a fish planned for Jonah. How about that for a loving, kind, and righteous God? Jonah calls out, and in verse 10 of chapter 2 says,

"...and the Lord spoke to the fish and in vomited Jonah out upon the dry land."

Now, what we don't know is where Jonah ended up on dry land. What we do know is that Jonah ended up on dry land. We don't know if it was one day or seventy-seven days between Jonah and going to Nineveh again. In chapter 3, the Bible says, "The word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time." Maybe it was as soon as two weeks, maybe Jonah was still wet when the Lord came to him the second time. Maybe he was sunburned. Maybe he walked around again for seventy-seven days trying to figure out, Lord, what am I supposed to do now. We don't know, the Bible is silent, so I'm silent, but here we see the Lord's grace and mercy in the beginning of chapter 3 because the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time. God is a God of many chances.

Now, lest we put the Lord our God to the test, when He tells us to move, we need to move. Let's not test the Lord and say Lord, I'm going to say no, and I'm going to test this thing out like Jonah just to see what you're going to do. No, that is not the prescription I'm prescribing right now. My prescription is when the Lord says move, we move because if we don't move when He tells us to move, sometimes we miss out on blessings. I have three children. I'm a dad now. Yes, fathers and moms, you know what I'm talking about; sometimes you just don't feel like doing a little thing like making coffee. We have these things called Keurig's now, and friend bought me one and I can't turn away from them. I'm like, this is so simple; you just put the little pod in, push the thing down, and boom! I was anti-Keurig until I got one as a gift. I may say, "Hey, kid, one of you three," (I try to leave out their name sometimes because they listen to my sermons and say, "Why did you say that about me Daddy?"), so I say, "Kid number one, go make me some coffee." Kid number one may be like, uh, I'm going to pretend like I didn't hear that right now because I'm in to my video game, or eating a popsicle, or doing what I want to do. Ok, cool, "Hey, kid number two, since kid number one didn't respond I need you to do me a favor, can you make the coffee like I asked?" Kid number two joyfully walks and makes the coffee, amen. Let it be so! Then sometimes I'm like, "Kid number two, thank you so much for making the coffee, let's

go get some ice cream and buy you a game." Kid number one is like, "What? You didn't tell me you were buying games and ice cream!" I'm like, "I didn't have to tell you I was buying games and ice cream, I told you to do something, and as your father you should have followed my directions." The Lord our God is no different. We don't do to get his rewards; we do because He told us to!

Sometimes we're just like little kids and get upset, "Lord, why didn't I get that job? Why didn't I get that school? Why didn't I get that church?" Why? Because you did not do what He told you to do! But the Lord shows compassion when He wants to show compassion. Here He shows Jonah great compassion and he says, "When the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying Arise." Saints, he told him in chapter 1, verse 1, arise, get up, go to Nineveh that great city, and call out against it the message that I told you. The only message we have is the message the Lord Jesus Christ gives us. We don't change it, we don't add anything to it, and we don't take it away. We give the message that Jesus Christ gives us to send, and it is repent, turn away from your sins unless you're going to die and go to hell. Whether people believe hell exists or not is just a moot point. It doesn't matter what you believe, God says it exists; it exists. You can be skeptic all you want. Skepticism won't save you from hell. The Bible tells us the people repent. They turn away from their sin. You would think that Jonah would rejoice at them turning away from their sin because the angels in heaven are rejoicing, but that's not how he responds.

That my survey of Jonah chapter 1, chapter 2, and chapter 3. There is so much more I would like to say, probably like three and a half hours if I would like to go through each one of those passages, but we're going to hurry up now to Jonah chapter 4. Hopefully that has brought you up to speed enough to roll with us now. The Bible says in Jonah chapter 4, "But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry." What? Jonah, like the Lord just saved a couple hundred thousand people and you're angry, exceedingly angry? Are you insane? But that's our heart...that's because the Bible says the heart is desperately wicked. Sometimes when the Lord does good stuff for other people, we get angry, saints. We get angry. We don't have the right to be displeased with God. He is God and He does



whatever He pleases! This is a further inclination, a further clue that Jonah's heart was still not right. And even though he did what the Lord had told him to do, he didn't do it with the proper heart. You can do the Lord's work and still do it like Jonah, but that's not how we want to do the work. We tell our kids, "Right away," "All the way," and "With a happy heart, now!" We didn't make that up. That came from some parenting book that my wife read because she reads all those kind of books, and I listen to her. She has done a great job raising our children, and I thank God for her and her ministry to our family, all the way. We should be pleased when people are saved, but Jonah, no not Jonah. He prayed again, and this prayer here, and it says, "He prayed to the Lord and said, Oh Lord, is this not what I said when I was yet in my country? That's why I fled to Tarshish." So now he is explaining to the Lord like the Lord doesn't know why he left. Yeah, you don't have to tell the Lord anything, He knows everything. We ought not to be surprised that the Lord our God knows everything.

How many of you have been married more than a year? You know everything that your spouse is going to do before they do it. Give me an amen right there, please and thank you! My wife is like, "I knew you were going to do that thing." I'm like, "How did you know?" "I've been studying you for twenty years, Kevin. I'm not going to have you, you need to study me like I'm trying to study you; you keep changing." Don't tell her I said that! Delete that from the thing, please! Thank you, "Baby, I'm just playing. I'm sure you're probably going to listen to this and say, why did you say that about me? I love you sweetheart."

And he prayed to the Lord and said, "Oh Lord is not this what I said when I was yet in my country?" So he prays but he does it with the wrong heart, and his prayer here in chapter 4 is nothing like his prayer in chapter 2. Now, he does begin to make sense now in the second point in the second half of chapter 2, for he says, and here's my application point number one: Adore God for who He is. Check this out, God has ascribed to Himself and Jonah makes clear five characteristics or attributes of the Lord. He says first, God, you are gracious. Let's just sit with that for a little bit, undeserved, unprovoked, unearned kindness and generosity and forgiving. He says Lord, you are gracious and I'm angry at the fact that You're

gracious. But He is gracious, and I pray today that you see how gracious He is in your life. Then Jonah goes on to say and You're merciful, Lord. You're merciful. What is merciful? Mercy is love in action, spontaneous, and constant, and voluntary. It's spontaneous because God's love comes at you when you're not expecting it at all! He just blesses you with random things. Then it's constant; it is not fickle at all, at all! I'll use myself again here, but I'm so fickle. Fourteen years ago, my wife and I were getting married and I said, "Baby, I will never hurt you. I'm going to love you." Some of your spouses are going to say one day, "I will never hurt you. I will love you and I will cherish you. I will never make any mistakes." HA! Three or four days into marriage (probably like one hour, really) we are already fracturing the covenant that we have because my love is not constant like the Lord's love. It is not as spontaneous as the Lord's love, and it's not voluntary like His love. Nineveh does nothing to deserve the Lord's presence to come into their life. But we are so often like, "If you don't do that, then I'm not giving you my love." God is not like that. God is not like man. He is nothing like man because He is God, and He is God alone.

And Jonah says and Lord, You are slow to anger and You're not going to give people what they deserve, Lord. But we are called to be that. The Bible tells us the fruit of the Spirit is to be slow to anger. We want to exemplify slowness in anger. We want to be like the Lord. Check this out now saints; it says He is slow to anger, not that He does not have anger. Slow to anger and not having anger are two totally different things. I'm slow if I'm dealing with my kids sometimes because I want to be gracious and kind to them. But if you push it too much, Parson Jones, (that's my five year old, she thinks she's forty-five, I promise you) I'm like, "Go to the restroom." That's where we have our family meetings. For the sake of social work activist, I won't say what takes place in there, but it's a coming to get to know ya in there. Sometimes there's some shouting, and then you go on your merry way. ☺ So just because daddy is slow to anger does not mean I don't have anger, and the Lord is the same way so don't put Him to the test, saints. Don't do that.

Then he says Your abounding and steadfast love and abundance is not a little bit, but a lot. It's more than we can contain! His love and His grace is

so much that we can do nothing with it. It's abundance pouring out all over the place. It's abounding in steadfast love, abounding! Then he says Lord, you relent from disaster, because He can relent whenever He wants to relent. And for these five attributes, Jonah was angry; Jonah was displeased. We ought to adore the Lord for who He is. Do you know Him as gracious? Do you know Him as merciful? Do you know Him as slow to anger? Do you know Him as abounding and steadfast love? Do you know Him from relenting?

Verse 3 says, "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." Jonah, are you crazy? Jonah, you are again, if he is asking for the Lord to take his life because the Lord has saved people, people that he didn't like, people that served a threat to his country and his nationality because Jonah understood that if the Lord preserved Nineveh that Nineveh was coming after Israel and would destroy them. But what we have to know is that God has people from every nation, every tribe, every tongue, all over the place and we can't contain His message because we don't like a certain people group! Here's the deal, saints; there are people over this world who we would never see, never know their native tongue, never set foot in the United States of America, who will love and worship and adore Jesus Christ at His feet, and we will be casting crowns at people who look different than us. There are also people of this land, of this nation who we have several affinities and affections with who will die and go to hell! We must esteem the supremacy of Jesus Christ over every other affection that we have. Jonah was struggling to do that.

So point number two; we ought to rejoice when people come to know the Lord. Verse 4 says, "And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?" Be careful when the Lord starts asking you questions because typically we don't have an answer. When I start questioning Kevin, or Karson, or Kennedy, I already know the answer. I'm just asking you so you can know the answer. The Lord said, is it right for you to be angry? He was more gentle here. When He began to assault Job, He said Job, stand up and face me like a man! And He riddled off all these things, and Job was like, whoa! He is gentle here because He is God and He can do whatever He wants to.

Verse number 5 says, "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." Now instead of Jonah rejoice, (application point number two) we should rejoice when people come to know the Lord, Jonah went through the city yelling repent because the Lord is bringing destruction on the city in forty days. He did not even hang around to see if the people would respond ya'll! So just because you do some of the Lord's work and you don't get intimately involved with the people, does not make it excellent. It's good, but it's not excellent. Jonah, if he loved the people, if he had a heart for them, he would have stayed with them and sat with them and shared the gospel with them. But he didn't, he walked through and it said he went out of the city and sat, and he looked. He looked with the eyes the Lord gave him, sat on the behind the Lord gave him, and he built shade for himself that the Lord had given him. Here he is using all of the grace the Lord has given him to wait and look at somebody else's destruction. He is like us sometimes. He left with no intention of helping people at all.

The Bible goes on to say, "Now the Lord..." We are going to see three snapshots here very quickly of God appointing, God appointing, God appointing. God is sovereign over plants. He is sovereign over animals. He is sovereign over all the elements. It says in verse 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." So Jonah ebbing back and forth between complete joy, complete satisfaction, and complete anger. Now, this is not what you think God would have done at this moment after Jonah had fled from the Lord, he had cost men their livelihood, and now all of a sudden the Lord is giving him shade? He is a God of steadfast and abounding love!

Verse 7 says, "But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered." If our heart posture is not right, the Lord God will come after us, saints. He will deal with us rightly for His glory. Verse 8 says, "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." I've been to the Middle East multiple times. If you've been there, raise your hand for me. Let everybody know this is exactly the truth; when you get off a plane in the Middle East; 120° is a real 120°! The sirocco wind is a real wind that comes through and will dry up your skin in seconds. You be like oh, what is happening with me? So the Lord sent an East wind right through and dried it up.

Then verse 9 says this, "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." He's repeating this same thing, but God appointed, God appointed, God appointed, and now here Jonah is sitting in his own mess, in his own muck. Then the Lord is asking him a second question; I asked you one Jonah, do you do well to be angry, and now you want to be angry for the plant? Jonah, I cannot believe that you're angry for a plant and you're not angry that these men and women were not going to turn away. You're upset. You have more care and concern over a plant than you do souls of human beings? We have to be careful, saints, we can be the same way. We can spend more time in our physical gardens than we do spreading and planting seeds of righteousness, and water, some plants, some water, God gives the increase. Now listen, planting and farming are very important things. We need to eat, and this common grace the Lord uses great farmers and great businessmen and women so that we can have enough sustenance to sustain ourselves and to share His grace and mercy, but we have to be very careful that we don't care more about worms and plants than we do human beings. That's the warning. That's the threat. Jonah is angry enough to die because the Lord has shown mercy.

Verse 10 says, "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." Here is the climax of this story. I thought the climax is when the Ninevites turn around. That's not the climax at all. The climax is here. It's like this climax and then a climax. Any great reader or writer knows sometimes that's not it there is something else, the door's opening again. Well, the door's opening again here, and here is the question that

the Lord leaves with Jonah. He says, "And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city..." My question to you is the same question the Lord asked here. Should we not pity? Application point number three is have pity on people who don't know God. Should we not pity people who don't know the Lord? I'm not talking about a socioeconomic, or an ethnic not knowing the Lord. Do you know why? Because there are broke people, literally, having zero money in their bank account, who could die today and spend eternity with Jesus. There are billionaires who would die with all of their money and go to hell! So I'm not saying have pity on poor people, even though we should because the Lord cares for the homeless, the widows, and the orphans. But it's not just those we are to pity, so don't look at people with carnal eyes and say because you look good you're safe; no, the Bible says we don't know the left hand from the right, who don't fully understand the capacity of the Lord, we ought to have pity on them, and why in the world would we have pity on people? Because Jesus Christ showed pity to us! He showed pity to us when we did not know our left hand from our right. When we thought that our way was better than His way, He showed pity on us. We were chasing whatever sin you fancied. He showed pity on us when you turned your back on the church. He showed pity on us, and if you don't know Him, He is showing pity on you today. What does pity look like? Pity looks like Jesus Christ, cosmic creator of all things saying I pity the world so much that I'm going to put on flesh, be born through a woman, and then lay down My life for men and women. That's what pity in action looks like! Jesus Christ comes, nail in His left hand, nail in His right hand, nail in His feet. Why would He stay there? Because He pitied us and He loved us, and Jesus is better than Jonah because God didn't have to ask Him twice! He got up the first time. He went and He came and He saved us! Let us be like Jesus! Oh, let us be like Jesus! When He tells us to move, let's move.

I'm going to say this and I'm going to sit down. What we don't want to do is have our life end like Jonah's life ends. Because you're probably thinking right now, like many commentaries and any Bible believing person says is so what happened to Jonah? He is sitting there waiting for the destruction of the city, a city that where the sun beats down on his head. What happened to him? Well saints, the Bible is silent, and where the Bible is

silent, I'm going to be silent. But what I don't want to happen is for any of us in this room, I don't want to be laying on my deathbed and people saying did Kevin really love the Lord? Let it not be so because the Bible says make every effort to make your calling and election sure, every single effort! Jonah is sitting here not making every effort. He's sitting there moping like a five-year-old baby. It is sin! Let it not be said of us. We work because He loves us, not because work saves us. Don't let men and women say did Bro so and so really loved the Lord. Let me pray for us saints.

Oh, Lord our God, You are righteous and You are right. You call us, Father, You keep us Lord. You keep us better than we keep ourselves. You love us better than we can love ourselves, God; you are abounding in steadfast love. It is constant. It is voluntary. It is spontaneous. It is merciful. Father, would You chase an unbelieving heart today who has turned their back on You Lord. Would You call them and equip them and keep them today so they can know You Father. Would You let us share the gospel with people, even those who may have hurt us Lord, even those who may have posed a threat to us Lord. May we share the gospel with them, and when they come to know you Lord, give us the capacity to rejoice and not mope. In Jesus name I pray, amen.