**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 7 – OCTOBER 5, 2025**

They Don’t Deserve It.

**Key Verse(s):** Jonah 4:1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. 2 And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray thee, O Lord, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

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**Summary of the Biblical Event**

While Jonah was a prophet of God, his heart was far from aligned with God’s heart of mercy. When the Lord commanded him to go to Nineveh and preach against it, Jonah ran the opposite direction, boarding a ship to Tarshish to escape the assignment. His flight was not out of fear or uncertainty but because he knew that God would show mercy if the Ninevites repented. He didn’t believe they deserved it. After being swallowed by a great fish and delivered back to dry land, Jonah obeyed and preached God’s message. True to God’s character, the Lord spared the Ninevites after they repented. Instead of rejoicing, Jonah grew angry and complained to God, revealing his selfish and judgmental attitude. He wanted mercy for himself but justice for others. Through a withering plant, God taught Jonah that His compassion extends even to those we think don’t deserve it. Jonah’s story reminds us that our role is to deliver God’s message, not decide who is worthy of His grace.



 **Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* God’s plan is not subject to our personal likes or dislikes.
* Obedience is right even when our emotions want to resist it.
* Grace is never about who is worthy of it; it’s about God.
* The privilege of service is much better than cost of sacrifice.
* We should rejoice when others find victory in the Lord God.
* He was motivated by a deep-seated dislike for the Ninevites.
* He let his personal feelings outweigh obedience to God.
* He was selective in who he thought was worthy of grace.
* He was resentful of the very personal cost he had to pay.
* He was not inclined or eager to see them be successful.

**Effects of the Excuse**

**1. It hardens our hearts toward those God loves and wants to save.**

**Matthew 5:44** — “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”

**2. It puts the believer in the seat of judgment instead of behaving justly.**

**Micah 6:8** — ““He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

**3. It drives us away from God and keeps us from doing His will like we should.**

**Isaiah 59:2** — “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

**4. It robs us of finding joy in serving and hurts those around us.**

**Galatians 6:9-10** — “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Memory Verse:** James 2:13 – “For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.”

**Reflective Questions:**

* Am I holding a grudge against someone who I don’t want to see succeed?
* Have I forgotten my own poor choices and those whom I have personally wronged?

**Commitment:**

* I will remind myself of what I’m worthy of.
* I will strive to leave judgment in the hand of God and simply do what I’m told.

Why did God give Jonah another chance if his attitude hadn’t changed?

How could Jonah still think this way when he himself should have died?

Why do people think that withholding mercy is a form of good judgment?

What is the opposite of this line of thinking? (Grace without \_\_\_\_\_)

What is our primary reason today for using this excuse to deter action?