



# Daily Reflections

## October 11, 2017

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### Scripture

#### **Jonah 4:1-11**

Jonah was greatly displeased  
and became angry that God did not carry out the evil  
he threatened against Nineveh.  
He prayed, "I beseech you, LORD,  
is not this what I said while I was still in my own country?  
This is why I fled at first to Tarshish.  
I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God,  
slow to anger, rich in clemency, loath to punish.  
And now, LORD, please take my life from me;  
for it is better for me to die than to live."  
But the LORD asked, "Have you reason to be angry?"  
Jonah then left the city for a place to the east of it,  
where he built himself a hut and waited under it in the shade,  
to see what would happen to the city.  
And when the LORD God provided a gourd plant  
that grew up over Jonah's head,  
giving shade that relieved him of any discomfort,  
Jonah was very happy over the plant.  
But the next morning at dawn  
God sent a worm that attacked the plant,  
so that it withered.  
And when the sun arose, God sent a burning east wind;  
and the sun beat upon Jonah's head till he became faint.

Then Jonah asked for death, saying,  
"I would be better off dead than alive."  
But God said to Jonah,  
"Have you reason to be angry over the plant?"  
"I have reason to be angry," Jonah answered, "angry enough to die."  
Then the LORD said,  
"You are concerned over the plant which cost you no labor  
and which you did not raise;  
it came up in one night and in one night it perished.  
And should I not be concerned over Nineveh, the great city,  
in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons  
who cannot distinguish their right hand from their left,  
not to mention the many cattle?"

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Why was Jonah so angry with God? Because God did not perform according to Jonah's expectations regarding his bitter enemies the people of Nineveh. Jonah hated them and saw no good reason for them to be spared from eternal damnation, but God thought differently. Jonah's dilemma reminds us of God's words in Isaiah 55: 8-9: "My ways are not your ways nor are my thoughts your thoughts." God's plan is always bigger than our ability to definitively comprehend it. After all, God is Lord and Creator of all. Will our faith in Him allow us to become humble before God and trust Him completely?

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## **Food for your Journey**

A Sunday school teacher had been telling her class the story of Jonah and the whale. Finally, she asked them what lesson they thought the story taught.

One little boy put up his hand. "I know, Miss!" he said. "It teaches that you can't keep a good man down!"

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, With the help of Your Grace, may I surrender my life completely to You and Your plan for me. Amen.