

# **THE LINGERING QUESTION**

Jonah 4:1-11      Jeff Schreve

*Then the LORD said, "You had compassion on the plant .... And should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?" Jonah 4:10-11*

## **How much are you like Jonah?**

### **1. Jonah did not want to do what God called him to do.**

*The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me." But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. Jonah 1:1-3*

A. The Assyrians were the brutal, evil, idolatrous enemies.

B. The Assyrians deserved the fiery judgment of God.

*He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity. Jonah 4:2*

C. Jonah wanted God to be gracious to him, not them.

### **2. Jonah had concern for temporary pleasures, not eternal people.**

A. Jonah would not rejoice in Nineveh's repentance.

B. Jonah would rejoice in a plant and overlook the people.

C. Jonah needed to learn a great lesson: people matter to God.

**We have one job as Christians: to chase chariots for Christ.**

**Because all people matter to God, all people need to matter to me. These are the people I will be praying for and chasing after for Christ:**

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