Pastor Dave Teixeira
Jonah 4
July 25, 2010

Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

Jonah, chapter 4 begins with our prophet friend expressing anger and downright despair because of a successful mission trip to Nineveh. Can you imagine our youth returning from a mission trip and reporting how angry they were that 120,000 people came to Christ? Really, Jonah? God used you to turn a whole city of people from their wicked ways, and you're bummed?

- What reason does Jonah give for his anger and despair (see vs. 2)?
- Name a situation where you were angry with a parent, a boss or maybe the legal system for having compassion and mercy toward an individual.
- How about a time when you were angry with God for the same reason?
- What is God's reply to Jonah in verse 3?

Read verse 5-11.

- How does God's object lesson for Jonah communicate the value He places on people?

Once again, God shows Jonah that he is just as much in need of God's mercy as the people of Nineveh.

Read Matthew 7:1-6.

- How about you? Do you have "log/speck syndrome?" Is it easier for you to long for the judgment of others while ignoring the sin in your own life? Can you grasp the idea that to a Holy God, you are just as much in need of mercy as those who you deem more sinful?

To look at it another way, can you grasp that God loves those other "sinful" people just as much as He loves you?

- To help with that, talk about having more than one child—one who obeys most of the time and one who disobeys most of the time. They are equally your children. They are each a part of you, and you love them both. Just as you long for the repentance of each of your children, God longs for the repentance of <u>all</u> of His. And just as you want each of your children to have compassion for the other, God longs for you to have compassion and to be happy when His other children turn their lives around.
- Is there someone who has begun to turn their life around who God is urging you to be happy for? Pray for that person—that they would be able to continue on their new path of obedience.