

# *Angry at God*

Man Overboard Series – Part 6

Scripture text – Jonah 4:1-3

## Introduction

- Jonah 4 has been called the most \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ chapter in the Bible. It's here that the real lessons of the book are revealed.
- Jonah is \_\_\_\_\_ the Ninevites repented & weren't destroyed. He's so despondent over this that he wants to \_\_\_\_\_.
- When God questions him, Jonah \_\_\_\_\_ out on God.

## Jonah's Problem

- From the outset, Jonah had interpreted the call to go to Nineveh as meaning there was a \_\_\_\_\_ God wouldn't destroy the city.
- Jonah is angry because his view of God has "\_\_\_\_\_." Specifically, God went \_\_\_\_\_ with his mercy.
- The Ninevites were a uniquely \_\_\_\_\_ people. It disturbed Jonah that God was going to forgive all their atrocities on nothing more than supposed \_\_\_\_\_.
- Similarly, God forgives all our sin (past, present & future) on mere repentance and \_\_\_\_\_ in his Son.
- From a human perspective, this is \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

## Our Problem Too?

- Most Christians come to a point where what they believe about God gets \_\_\_\_\_. He either didn't come \_\_\_\_\_ for them, or he's not the \_\_\_\_\_ they thought he was.
- When that happens, many become \_\_\_\_\_.

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### Case Study: Young Adults

- \_\_\_\_\_% of previously engaged Christian youth become \_\_\_\_\_ from the Christian faith as they transition into college.
- 3 reasons:
  - 1) The church \_\_\_\_\_ them, but doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ them.
  - 2) They don't know how to \_\_\_\_\_ from moral failure.
  - 3) Their view of God gets blown up; they experience something and God's not \_\_\_\_\_ for them.
- Young people then develop a "*hidden \_\_\_\_\_ with God*" (William Backus).

### Healing the Rift

- Dr. Vic Gordon: "*The defining issue in religion is who \_\_\_\_\_ God.*"
- Those who let God define God:
  - 1) Soak in the \_\_\_\_\_;
  - 2) Embrace & trust \_\_\_\_\_ God; and
  - 3) Find God to be all they \_\_\_\_\_.
- None of this is to suggest our view of God is too \_\_\_\_\_. On the contrary, we set the bar too \_\_\_\_\_. This is one of the lessons of Jonah.

### Discussion Questions

1. Is "reckless" a good way to describe God's love & mercy? Why or why not?
2. How has your view of God been blown up? Or, to ask it another way, how has your understanding of God matured?

### Who's Who in Today's Message

- William Backus (1926-2005): A Christian psychologist & Lutheran pastor. His best-known book is "*The Hidden Rift with God*," published in 1990.
- Dr. Vic Gordon (1953-): Pastor Dan's predecessor at First Baptist Wichita. Since retiring from the pastorate, Dr. Vic has led a ministry called "*Gospel Depth*," which is a nonprofit dedicated to helping pastors & churches become deeper theologically.