

Loving the City: God's Love for the City

Jonah 4



**God calls us to love our city because He
loves the city.**

- **God Loves Cities**
- **God Wants Us to Love Our City**
- **Why We Fail to Love Our City**
- **Learning to Love Our City**

God Loves Cities

- God's love for Nineveh leads Him to show care for it in practical ways.
- God loves cities because He loves people, and cities are where people are.

**“In cities you have more image of
God per square inch than anywhere
else on earth.”**

-Tim Keller

God Wants Us to Love Our City

- God's call to love the city is for normal, everyday people, not just super-spiritual ones
- God wants us to understand and share His love for cities and to make it our love too

**“Because cities matter to God, cities
should matter to us.”**

–Trevin Wax

God Wants Us to Love Our City

- God's call to love the city is for normal, everyday people, not just super-spiritual ones
- God wants us to understand and share His love for cities and to make it our love too
- Key question: What is your most basic attitude toward the city?
- Loving the city involves caring for people around you and investing in the good of the city

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Why We Fail to Love Our City

- Disordered Loves
 - Having our loves out of order leads us to live in wrong ways
 - Maturity = love small things a small amount, big things a big amount, and God most of all
 - When our focus is on what we can get from HK rather than how we can love and serve HK, our loves are disordered

Why We Fail to Love Our City

- Bad theology
 - Theology = the study of God
 - If we get our theology wrong, it leads to wrong living
 - Jonah's theology was bad because he believed he made a better god than God

Learning to Love Our City

- To the extent you believe God loves you even though you're undeserving, you'll love the city even though it's undeserving

“Your attitude toward the city is one index of whether or not you know you’re a sinner saved by grace. If you know you’re a sinner saved by grace, you can no longer feel paternalistic towards people who don’t believe or live like you do. You won’t be so absorbed in your own comforts, in all of the things that keep you from loving the city. God says to Jonah, “Look. I don’t think you have my heart, because if you understood my grace and if you understood my nature, when you look at a city, you would love it instead of hating it. A hundred and twenty thousand people!””

–Tim Keller

Learning to Love Our City

- To the extent you believe God loves you even though you're undeserving, you'll love the city even though it's undeserving
- God is asking you: Do you have my heart for your city?