

Jonah 3.1-10 & 4.1-11

The Majestic Mercy of God Magnified in Missions

“That the Gentiles might glorify God for His Mercy” [Romans 15.9]

7.28.25 | BFM Summer Conference | New Life BC, Lexington KY

We’ve a message to give to the nations [missions]

That the King who reigneth above [Majesty]

Hath sent us His Son to save us [that IS the MISSION!]

and show us that God is Love [Mercy]

[‘We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations’ | Henry Ernest Nichol | 3rd stanza]

Let’s refresh our memory re: what these key terms mean...

→Missions: All of those activities we engage in to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, advance the Kingdom of God, and make the Glory of God known to all the peoples of the earth.

→The Mission: All of our Missions activities are just the human, earthly outworkings of God’s Mission.

- *‘God has sent us His Son to save us!’*
- *‘And God’s great Kingdom shall come to earth, the Kingdom of Love and Light!’*
- *‘For God so loved the world that He gave us His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.’*

And God has...

- purposed His Mission from before the foundation of the world;
- and He has been advancing His Mission from the first acts of creation;
- and God will fulfill His Mission in the finished work of Jesus Christ—
 - both in the redemption of His people
 - and the redemption of the whole universal creation in the New Heaven and New Earth.

Our brother, David Mitchell, has often quoted one of his professors, Dr Patterson, in saying: **“God had only one Son, and He made Him a missionary.”** I think that quote is originally attributed to the missionary **David Livingstone: “God had an Only Son and He made Him a missionary.”** But—that IS the Mission. **1 John 4.14: “And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world!”** All of our missions activities are the proclamation and advancement of that—The Mission—God’s Mission!

→**Majesty**: Majesty is one of those words we just use and recognize, and assume we all know what we're talking about. And I think we do. But, since it is such a key word here, let's be sure:

- MAJESTY is an exalted person or position / ... superior, supreme excellence / ...sovereignty;
- but preeminently, MAJESTY is BEAUTY – or GLORY! “O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth! You have set Your Glory above the heavens!” [Ps 8.1]. In Bible language, MAJESTY and GLORY are interchangeable...

→**Mercy**: Mercy is God's gracious sparing us from the just deserts of His Justice: which is, His condemnation of our sins, His eternal wrath and punishments for them. MERCY is God's saving us from our sins – and all so that we shall not perish [as in John 3.16], but have eternal life by believing and trusting in His Mercy given to us in Christ!

And so, for our purposes, we're going to zoom in on the inseparable con-joining of *MAJESTY and MERCY* when we speak of *God's Majestic Mercy in Missions*. I'm going to take 'Majesty' and 'Mercy' and tweak it about a quarter-turn, and emphasize God's 'Majestic Mercy' throughout this message.

>>>>>>>>>†<<<<<<<<<<

So...let's summarize our message...

The living hope we have ... that God will magnify His Majestic Mercy ... by saving sinners is

[I] the CATALYST for missions,

[II] the PROPELLANT of missions,

[III] The POWER of the very Gospel Message of missions in the Person of Jesus Christ,

[IV] and the ASSURANCE of our success for Missions.

...and I pray that I can illustrate that great Gospel truth from the story of Jonah.

>>>>>>>>>†<<<<<<<<<<

So, 'WHAT DOES JONAH HAVE TO DO WITH MISSIONS?' you ask...

- WHAT IS THE STORY OF JONAH ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY?
- AND WHY IS THE JONAH NARRATIVE IN THE BIBLE, TO BEGIN WITH?

What do YOU think of when you think of Jonah?

- Is it just the story of a stubborn prophet and a big fish? Is it just an apologetic for miracles?
- It is that ... but if that is ALL we think it is, then we have missed the whole point.

- The main character of the story of Jonah is NOT JONAH ... NOT THE BIG FISH ... NOT THE SAILORS ... NOT THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH ... OR ANY OF THE OTHER MANY CREATURES AND PEOPLE FEATURED IN THE STORY OF JONAH!
- The main character of the Jonah narrative is The LORD HIMSELF – and specifically, the character of The LORD magnifying His Majestic Mercy in saving sinners so they will not perish – even Gentiles!
 “And that the Gentiles may glorify God for His Mercy” as Paul explains in Romans 15.9.
- And, more specifically, what The LORD is giving us in the story of Jonah is a PATTERN for us to see His heart and purpose of Majestic Mercy that is magnified in saving the most un-deserving of sinners [of course, that is ALL of us ... but sometimes we need to learn that lesson also...].

It is the same OT PATTERN that The LORD used when He saved Saul of Tarsus, the apostle Paul.

1 Timothy 1.12-17: And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, ¹³ although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. ¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

So, how does The LORD magnify His Majestic Mercies in missions ... as illustrated by Jonah?

>>>>>>>>>†<<<<<<<<<<

The living hope ... that God will magnify His Majestic Mercy ... by saving sinners is

[I] the CATALYST for missions

The PURPOSES of The LORD's Mercies [The very Majestic Mercy of The LORD's own heart] is

what 'kickstarts' ALL missions!

The Majestic Mercy of God in saving sinners begins in the heart of The LORD Himself!

- Jonah 1.1-2: Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.”

➤ **Jonah 3.1-2: Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.”**

Now we are left to wonder **WHAT ALL** was in this message: [?] is this short, simple text the whole content of the message that The LORD sent Jonah to preach from Him? We're not permitted to '*read between the lines*;' **but Jonah sure did!**

Jonah knew the heart of The LORD ... even though he thought he would just refuse to deliver the message.

‘SPOILER ALERT!’

We know that Jonah knew by fast-forwarding to the end of this missions saga...

After the people of Nineveh believed God, repented of their sins, and turned to The LORD in faith in His Majestic Mercy, the word on the street got back to the king of Nineveh himself. And he appealed to The LORD on the basis of the message as he understood it: **Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? And God did just that!**

And this act of Majestic Mercy exploded a violent, visceral fit of anger in Jonah.

Because ... Jonah knew The LORD. He knew the heart and character of The LORD:

[Jonah 4.1-2] But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. ² So he prayed to the Lord, and said, “Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You *are* a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.”

Those of us who are old enough to remember the Nixon Watergate scandal from 1973-74 will remember the turning point of that scandal during the Congressional hearing before the Senate ... Tennessee Senator Howard Baker asked Nixon's White House Chief Counsel, John Dean,

“What did the President know? and when did he know it?”

So we ask Jonah:

“What did you know about The LORD's purposeful will to have mercy on the Ninevites? And when did you know it?”

“Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.”

How did Jonah know this? That message content is not in any recorded commissions that we can read.

[1] But Jonah knew the heart of The LORD ... (he just was not syncing with The LORD's heart).

[2] And Jonah knew the Scriptures. *Whether the Majestic Mercy of The LORD was in the text of the commission He gave Jonah to deliver, Jonah could ‘read between the lines.’*

Because Jonah knew very well that Moses had pleaded with The LORD,

“Please show me Your Glory [Majesty]!” [Ex 33.18]

“Please show me now Your ways that I may know You!” [Ex 33.13]

And The LORD said,

“OK, you want to see My Glory? You want to see My Majesty shining in its most resplendent beauty?”

“Then He said, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the Name of The LORD before you. *I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion*” [Exodus 33.18-19].

Now The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of The LORD. ⁶ And The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, The LORD God, **merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,** ⁷ **keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,** by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.” [Exodus 34.5-7]

The LORD crowns Himself with many crowns – but surely, one of the most majestic of His Crown Jewels is HIS SOVEREIGN MERCY!

“Who is a God like You? Pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because **HE DELIGHTS IN MERCY!” [Micah 7.18-19]**

[1] Majestic sweetness sits enthroned upon the Savior’s brow...

His head with radiant glories crowned...His lips with Grace o’erflow!

[2] He saw me plunged in deep distress, and flew to my relief...

for me, He bore the shameful cross and carried all my grief!

[3] To Him I owe my life and breath and all the joy I have...

He makes me triumph over death and saves me from the grave!

[Samuel Stinnett]

And I say also: we don’t know what all the content of Jonah’s messages on the streets of Ninevah was. Although, however much as Jonah preached during the times that he did, *I think we can be pretty sure that it wasn’t just a repeating loop of “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”*

That strange message ... coming from this strange preacher ... about this strange LORD that he was preaching would have stirred up all kinds of curiosity and piqued the keenest of interest:

- ‘Yeah, says who?’
- ‘Your God, The LORD? Who is your God, this LORD?’
- ‘And, by the way, man—who are you? And where did you come from? And how did you get here? – WAIT! WHAT? You expect us to believe THAT?’
- ‘Man, why do you look the way you do? What are all those bleach splotches on your skin?’
- ‘Gastric juices? Gastric juices of what? A big fish?’
 - [And without a doubt, Jonah illustrated the Majestic Mercy of The LORD by his own true personal ‘fish story’ – and how The LORD had had mercy on the pagan sailors ... and on him!]

And when Jonah told the Ninevites about the Majestic Mercy of The LORD that had saved him from the fish’s belly and death ... the Ninevites grasped hold of that life-ring of hope: **So the people of Nineveh believed God... [Jonah 3.5].**

“If your God had such mercy on you, who knows but that He will have mercy on us, too!”

And that same Majestic Mercy of The LORD’s heart is the same Gospel message we continue to give to our neighbors and the nations of the world in our day – only more clearly...as we shall see

>>>>>>>>>†<<<<<<<<<<

And, not only is The LORD’s Majestic Mercy the ‘CATALYST’ for ALL missions, but...

The living hope ... that God will magnify His Majestic Mercy ... by saving sinners is

[II] the PROPELLANT of missions

The majestic PROVIDENCES of The LORD’s Mercies is the PROPELLANT that makes the Mission go and keeps it going!

The LORD’s ultimate aim—His own **driving force** of His own Mission...and ours—is proclaimed in **Romans 15.9:**

“That the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written [Psalm 18.49]: ‘For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your Name.’”

And even that prophetic Voice of **Psalm 18.49** is the Voice and Song of our Christ, the Savior of the world – and Christ sends Jonah to sing His song of Mercy over the Ninevites!

The LORD's Majestic Mercy is not only the CATALYST of His Mission of Mercy, but His power and Providences are the PROPELLANT of His Mission. He not only kickstarts it—He also makes it go and keeps it going by His continuous Mercies.

Jonah thinks he will circumvent The LORD's Mission — *he just won't do it.*

But The LORD will. He will make it go...and happen!

It's as if He says to Jonah [to paraphrase Mordecai's charge to Esther]: *"Jonah, if you don't fulfill this mission, relief and deliverance will come to the Ninevites from another source. But, know this, I have brought YOU to the Kingdom for such a time as this. YOU WILL do this!"*

*The LORD had already written the script for this drama –
and He wasn't about to allow Jonah to leave it on the cutting room floor!*

And so ... The LORD 'propels' His Mission of Mercy to the Gentiles by 'hurling' violent storms upon the very seas that Jonah thinks will sail him away from the Mission.

ch 1.4: But the LORD sent out [hurled] a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. [‘hurled,’ also 5, 12, 15]

The LORD has HIS WAY in the whirlwind and in the storm.

And the clouds are the dust of His feet [Nahum 1.3]

➤ The LORD will accomplish two missions of Majestic Mercy by this violent maelstrom He hurls upon them:

[1] The LORD *kicks in the reverse thrusters on the jets of Jonah's wild career of disobedience and rebellion* – to turn him around and propel him back to Nineveh via the fish. *Canceled Jonah's ticket to Tarshish and arranged to transfer him to another delivery vehicle back toward Nineveh... 'Big Fish Uber'*

[2] AND show His sovereign and Majestic Mercy to the sailors -- & propel them to faith in Him...

- **1.5: Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw [hurled] the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load...**
- all this was in their vain attempts to obtain MERCY ... so they would NOT PERISH!
- But, of course, there is no response from their 'gods' ... because as Jonah will confess in his prayer from the fish's belly in **ch 2.8: "Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own MERCY!"**

Our Sovereign God, The LORD, is the sole dispenser of ALL MERCY!

He will have Mercy on whom He wills to have Mercy!

- And The LORD does save them when they cried out to Him for MERCY!

It is the Majestic Mercies of The LORD – displayed in all His sovereign Providences of human activities and events – that PROPELS His Mission toward His purposed ends of salvation:

Before we continue to the next act of the Jonah drama, we would do well also to reflect here on The LORD's PROVIDENCES that have propelled the ministry of Baptist Faith Missions over the past 83 years...

- ## BUT...getting back to Jonah



**The living hope ... that God will magnify His Majestic Mercy ... by saving sinners is
the CATALYST ... the PROPELLANT ... and**

**[III] The POWER of missions ... through The very Gospel Message of missions in the Person of
Jesus Christ**

ENTER THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!

The PATTERN of The LORD's Majestic Mercies in Jonah ... is the PATTERN of Christ's Gospel...

**AND ... The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the POWER OF GOD for salvation to EVERYONE who
believes – to the Jew first and also to the Gentiles – even Ninevites!**

“That the Gentiles might glorify God for His Mercy!”

- **Jonah is not a ‘one-off’ character ... and the salvation of the Ninevites is not a ‘one-off’ event.
The story of Jonah and the salvation of the Ninevites is a ‘pre-enactment’ of The Gospel of
Jesus Christ! Jesus Himself said so.**

**Matthew 12.40-41: For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great
fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ The
men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because
they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.**

- **Jonah is a type...a PATTERN [template, if you will]—precursor / pointer / promise / dramatic
personal prophecy—of the coming and Mission of our Savior!**

*(Granted some of Jonah's types are counter-types [the contrasting opposite of the Christ], but
some of Jonah's types are types-in-kind.)*

- **What The LORD is doing in the Jonah narrative is displaying a PROPHETIC PATTERN OF
THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST ...**
 - for how He will have mercy on the Gentiles / nations in the unfolding ages to come ...
 - to be fulfilled in the Person and work of Jesus Christ ...
 - ...the same commission which Christ has given to us to advance into all the world.

*He did the same thing in the Exodus. The LORD established a PATTERN for how He will save the world
through the Lamb of God. He's doing the same thing here.*

- **So when The LORD sends Jonah into the deeps of the sea, then to be swallowed by the great fish
The LORD had prepared ... The LORD was ‘pre-enacting’ the descent of Christ into our earth;
then into the belly of Sheol and pit of death.**

- Jonah cries out to The LORD for salvation from the “belly of Sheol” and from “the pit of death.”
- And so did Christ from His Cross ... and from the wrappings of His grave-cloths ... and from the depths of His grave.

Hebrews 5.7-9: In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, **to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence.** ⁸ Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, **He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...**

- And when The LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land, so would the same LORD raise up His Son again from death for our salvation.

Jonah was the ‘pre-enactment’ and lesser PATTERN of the Greater Christ who was to come...

Romans 4.23-25: Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴ but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

And thus Christ will perfectly flesh out and fulfill the shadowy PATTERN He had ‘pre-enacted’ for us in Jonah. **“So The LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.”**

AND Jonah will give us our salvation credo that The LORD patterns all His salvation by:

“Salvation is of The LORD!”

AND THE CHRIST WILL EVEN BE CALLED THE MAJESTIC MERCY OF THE LORD ...
WHEN HE COMES TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS!

Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, will prophesy: **“...to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on High...”** [Luke 1.77-78]

>>>>>>>>>†<<<<<<<<<<

The living hope ... that God will magnify His Majestic Mercy ... by saving sinners is

[IV] The ASSURANCE for Missions

The LORD will save sinners to the PRAISE of The LORD’s Mercies

“That the Gentiles might glorify God ... for His Mercy!”

- It is The LORD's sovereign prerogative to have mercy and compassion on whomever He wills to have mercy and compassion:

“For He says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion’” [Romans 9.15 quoting Ex 33.19].

And He had willed to have mercy on the Ninevites—and He did!

- The grand climax of the message of Majestic Mercy that Jonah delivered to Nineveh from The LORD is in **chapter 3.4-5**:

“And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, ‘Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’ So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.”

So we have to ask again: *‘What did they believe?’*

Their penitent acts...are acts of appealing to Jonah's God for MERCY: *‘What must we do to be saved?’*

“For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call ... And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved!” [Acts 2.39, 21]

The Ninevites DID call on the Name of The LORD ... AND THEY WERE SAVED!

- The word on the street gets to the king of Nineveh. And he believes, too!

The king of Nineveh gives voice to their hopes for Mercy.

They are confessing the MAJESTY of Jonah's God—they are conceding to His sovereignty.

MAYBE HE WILL HAVE **MERCY**, TOO!

Jonah 3.6-9: Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying,

Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ *Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?*

And this God of Majestic Mercy DID turn and relent, and turned away from His fierce anger, ***so they would NOT PERISH!***

Jonah 3.10: Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them—and He did NOT do it!”

‘So,’ you ask, ‘*what were their works that God saw that turned Him from His threats of destruction against them?*’ It was nothing other than God’s own work of Majestic Mercy in them!

Romans 9.15: So then [salvation] is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

And the same story of Majestic Mercy is your story...and my story...and the story of everyone who has received God’s Majestic Mercy.

Ephesians 2.4-10: But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,⁷ **that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

>>>>>>>>>†<<<<<<<<<<

But ... The LORD has yet one more testimony to His Majestic Mercy that Jonah needs to learn – and we need to learn also!

ch 4.1: But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry!

It’s like Jonah did a big ‘flop’ on the court of world-wide missions ... and screamed at God – for what? For granting His Majestic Mercy to Gentiles he didn’t like. “Intentional Foul...Flagrant Two!”

Those who have received the most mercy should show the most mercy.

The late Pastor David Miller is quoted as saying:

“It should be a qualification of those who preach the doctrines of Grace...that they have some!”

Jonah may have preached the Doctrine of Grace – but he sure didn’t have a lot of it!

“I just knew it! I just knew You would show Mercy!”

ch 4.2: “So he prayed to The LORD, and said, ‘Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore [that’s why] I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know

**that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness,
One who relents from doing harm.’”**

- That’s when Jonah stalked out of the city—to get out of what he hoped would be harm’s way on the Ninevites / out of what he hoped would be The LORD’s line of fire upon the city who deserved justice—
- built himself a lean-to, snapped out his folding lawn chair, **“...and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city.” [ch 4.5].** *What he wanted to see was Divine pyrotechnics!*

Then The LORD had mercy and pity on His sulking prophet yet again...

- He prepared the shade plant with big ‘elephant ears’ leaves to spring up overnight **and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery ...** ‘Thank you, LORD! I deserve that. I’m entitled to this ‘prophet’s privilege.’
- **“BUT...as morning dawned the next day, God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered.”**
- **“AND...it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah’s head, so that he grew faint.”**

And the entitled prophet threw another hissy fit – began to scream again at The LORD:

‘What are You doing to me? And what are you NOT doing to them? If You’re not going to kill them—as they deserve—then kill me...and get me out of my misery of Your not killing them?’

And that’s when The LORD tested Jonah with this final proclamation of His Majestic Mercy:

Then God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

And he said, “It is right for me to be angry, even to death!”

[‘THEY don’t deserve Your mercy!’]

¹⁰ But the LORD said, “You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?”

And the question is still hanging there...unanswered by Jonah.

We have no idea whether Jonah ever synced up his own personal mercy with The LORD’s – or how long it may have taken The LORD to adjust his attitude.

Although...we're sure he has by now.

But, the question still hangs there...for US to answer.

And that is God's timely message for all of us here tonight.

And that's why we're here.

"We've a message to give to the nations:

That The LORD who reigneth above

Hath sent us His Son to save us and show us that God is love!

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noon-day bright,

And God's Great Kingdom shall come to earth—the Kingdom of Love and Light!"

And ... by His sovereign, Majestic Mercies and Grace working through us in all these same ways –
we want to be a part ... and do our parts...

"That the Gentiles might glorify God for His Mercy!"