



May 25 & 26, 2019

The Showdown: Jonah 4

¹But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ^{2a}He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? ³Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

1. Aligning our heart with God’s almost always involves a *struggle*.

⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.” ⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” “It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

2. God’s call has a way of *exposing* what’s going on in our hearts.

¹⁰But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

3. When we distance ourselves from *needy people*, we distance ourselves from God.

4. The best way to go deeper in your faith is to *reach wider* with him.