

# **Jonah**

## **Bible Study – Scene 7**

### **Jonah 4:5-11**

Dr. Reed Lessing in his Concordia Commentary (CC) of Jonah divides his remarks on Jonah into seven scenes. This is the seventh section.

Some consider this section a flashback to the time right after Jonah had finished preaching in Nineveh (3:4). He planned to wait out the 40 days in hopes of seeing Nineveh's destruction. (TLSB)

1. What is some rebellion that appears in verse 5?
2. The shelter Jonah had constructed was not very good. God created a better shelter for Jonah very likely the castor oil plant. This plant could quickly grow to a height of 15 ft. (V. 6). (TLSB) What was Jonah's reaction or how might we react to this help from God?
3. Why do you suppose that God removed the plant as a shelter?
4. When this hot, dusty wind called the sirocco begins to blow off the desert, it can raise the temperature by twenty degrees and drop the humidity in a matter of minutes. Its effect is exhausting. (PBC) What was God trying to do with Jonah?
5. God's question is a repeat of the one in v 4, except for mention of the plant (v. 9). (TLSB) What is God still trying to accomplish with Jonah?
6. What comparison does God make in verses 10-11?
7. Why in verse 11 do you suppose God mentioned cattle?
8. What can you learn from these verses?

#### **Some Answers to the above Questions:**

**1. "Jonah went out from the city" (4:5) of Nineveh, to which Yahweh had called him twice (1:2; 3:2). This can be seen as a minor act of rebellion, similar to his flight away from Yahweh and away from Nineveh in 1:3. He makes himself a small shelter to sit under for protection from the sun and waits to see what will happen in the city. (CC) He is still hopeful that Nineveh will not repent.**

**2. For once Jonah was happy. How quickly a small blessing from the hand of the Lord can ease our burdens and make us forget our troubles! (PBC)**

**3. Since Jonah had refused to change his mind about the Lord's mercy, God resorted to sterner measures to teach him. At this point He proceeded to deal with Jonah as Jonah wanted Him to deal with the Gentiles. (PBC)**

**God does to Jonah what Jonah wishes God had done to Nineveh. By means of the destroying worm, God retracts his grace and leaves Jonah exposed to his own evil. Jonah was angry in 4:2–3 because God’s grace worked for repentant Nineveh, but in 4:7–9 he is angry because his own impenitence has removed him from God’s grace! (CC)**

**4. God made Jonah so miserable that, feeling faint, he wished to die. God was setting the stage to again challenge Jonah’s attitude toward Nineveh. (TLSB)**

**5. God does not give up on Jonah, but persists.**

**God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather, desires that they turn from their wicked way and live (Ezek 18:23; 33:11).**

**6. Jonah’s concern compared poorly with God’s concern for Nineveh. Jonah was preoccupied with his own condition and the fate of a plant, while God was concerned with the condition and fate of human beings. (TLSB)**

**7. God probably mentioned livestock to remind Jonah that sparing cattle was more valuable than sparing one little plant. (TLSB)**