

Go Fish Choose Altitude over Attitude

This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. So he complained to the Lord about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. Just kill me now, Lord! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen." The Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry about this?" Then Jonah went out to the east side of the city and made a shelter to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city. And the Lord God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there, and soon it spread its broad leaves over Jonah's head, shading him from the sun. This eased his discomfort, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant. But God also arranged for a worm! The next morning at dawn the worm ate through the stem of the plant so that it withered away. And as the sun grew hot, God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. The sun beat down on his head until he grew faint and wished to die. "Death is certainly better than living like this!" he exclaimed. Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?" "Yes," Jonah retorted, "even angry enough to die!" Then the Lord said, "You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?" Jonah 4:1-11 (NLT)

What do I do when I've gone Jonah?

I must let His *altitude* dictate my *attitude*, not the other way around.

But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness...

I must remember God is always on *my side*.

The Lord God arranged...

I must trust God, let go of my <u>pride</u>, and let God have <u>my life</u> - all of it.

"Is it right for you to be angry about this?"

I need to let God use my life, *all of it*. "Go Fish"

"Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?"

Going deeper on your own. Read the entire book of Jonah, its only four small chapters. Why do you think Jonah included chapter four? Why do you think he wanted us to see this interaction between God and himself? Now, read Luke chapter 15. Re-read 15:11-31 and answer the following questions. Do you notice any similarities between Jonah and the prodigal sons older brother? What are they? Have you ever felt this way? Has there ever been a time when you felt overlooked by God, or maybe you felt like those God is trying to help don't deserve it? It's easy to feel that way; I have on many occasions. Look at Luke 15:31 and replace the word "son" with your name. Read it out loud. Receive the goodness of our Father. Forgiveness is such and incredible gift to the recipient and, yes, even more so to the one giving it. Give someone the gift of forgiveness and in turn you will be set free. Also, if you owe someone an apology, go give it. Restore the relationship as much as it is Write me up to vou. at jay@centerpointchurch.com and tell me your story.