

# The Life Challenge

**Title: The Unanswered Question**  
**Text: Jonah 3:10-4:11**  
**Speaker: Matt Ewert**  
**Date: June 21, 2020**



## WARM-UP

Here's a test of honesty. As you picture Jonah sitting outside Nineveh, waiting and hoping for something bad to happen to the city, can you think of a time (that you'd be willing to admit to) when you were hoping something bad or unfortunate might happen to someone? What motivated or caused those feelings?

## DISCUSSION

**Read Jonah 3:10-4:11.**

- How would you describe the character of God in this section of the book?
- How would you describe the character of Jonah?
- Jonah believes in God and seems to be clear about what God's heart is like. Given that, why do you think he refuses to give in to God's perspective? Why does he willingly choose to think and act differently than what he observes in God?
- Why do we sometimes think and act differently than God, even when we clearly know His will and His heart in a given situation?
- What steps can we take to ensure we are aligned with God in all circumstances?

**Share your thoughts about the following quote.**

- *"God doesn't love justice. God loves people. Justice is not an end in itself, an abstraction, for that would make justice a moral absolute to which God is subject. God's desire for justice flows out of a deep love for creation, and humankind in particular. God is not attached to justice. God is attached to creation and human beings."*

~Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heshel

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## DISCUSSION

### Read Micah 6:8

- Notice that in this passage God calls us to “act justly,” not to “demand justice.” What is the difference between those two perspectives or postures?
- Do you think most people are more inclined to “do justly” or to “demand justice”? Why?
- As you think about justice and mercy, in what ways do they seem to be in tension with each other?
- In this passage, how do you see justice and mercy working together?

**Read Micah 7:18. Here we see that both “anger” and “mercy” are things God can be, or express.**

- Which do you think God is more inclined towards, and why?