

## RADIANT CHURCH | Pastor Lee Cummings

### Extreme Measures: The Book of Jonah

#### Part 4: RESPONSE-ABILITY

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### I. Our quality of life is often determined by our **RESPONSE** to what **ACTUALLY** happens

#### **Jonah 4:1-3**

*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."*

### II. There are **TWO** mission fields in this story: **NINEVEH** and **JONAH**

1. Jonah is upset **AFTER** the results of his preaching, because it was not what **HE** wanted.

2. Life is about how we **RESPOND**

#### **Matthew 15:18 (NLT)**

*But the words you speak come from the heart.*

3. When our day starts going a certain way, we **RESPOND**, but what happens **AFTER**?

*a. let their emotions follow the events of the day.*

*b. let their emotions follow the attitudes of people around them.*

*c. Become Myopic and totally over-blow a situation.*

### III. Once something is done, our **RESPONSE, ATTITUDE, and ACTIONS** become the criteria for our future.

1. What spilled out of Jonah revealed the "**REAL PROBLEM**"

*a. "I knew you were compassionate..."*

2. Jonah was **ANGRY**

*a. God didn't do what HE wanted God to do.*

*b. God is NEVER obligated to do exactly what we think HE should.*

*c. Within the Chronicles of Narnia, the character that was the archetype of Jesus, is Aslan: "He is NOT a tame Lion."*

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### **IV. God proceeds to TEACH Jonah**

#### **Jonah 4:4**

*The Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry about this?"*

#### **Jonah 4:5-6**

*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.*

#### **Jonah 4:7-8**

*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.*

1. God is getting Jonah's **ATTENTION**
2. God is setting him up for a **PERSPECTIVE** change

#### **Jonah 4:10-11**

*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 (concern) for such a great city?"*

### **V. We CARE about your COMFORT, BUT God sees a BIGGER picture**