

Listen Carefully to God's Questions

Jonah 4:1-11

When God asked Adam, “*Where are you? . . . Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?*” (Gen. 3:9, 11), it was NOT because God did not know where Adam was or what he had done.

When God asked Cain, “*Where is Abel your brother?*” (Gen. 4:9), it was NOT because God did not know that Cain had killed Able.

God's questions "are meant to teach us something, or to expose to us our inner selves when we are guilty of sin or disobedience. . . . So whenever we read the Bible and come across God asking a question, we ought to ask ourselves, 'Is God addressing that question to me, and if so what am I meant to learn from it?'"

- Peter Williams

I. Some of God's questions are designed to confront us over our sin (v.4)

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*And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?"* (v.4)

Jonah left the city (v.5)

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*Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. (v.5)*



Jonah left the city (v.5)

Jonah quit his job

II. Some of God's questions are designed to teach us something about God (v.9)

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*But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." (v.9)*

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*God hurled a great wind at Jonah's ship  
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*the LORD appointed a great fish to  
swallow up Jonah when he was cast into  
the sea (Jonah 1:17).*

God *appointed a plant* to shade Jonah  
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plant, so that it withered* (Jonah 4:7)

God *appointed a scorching east wind*  
(Jonah 4:8).

2. God teaches us that He is patient.

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*Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. (v.6)*

3. God teaches that He is wise in dealing with people.

III. Some of God's questions are designed to teach us something about other people.  
(v.11)

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*And the Lord said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night."*

III. Some of God's questions are designed to teach us something about other people.  
(v.11)

*And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"*  
(vv.10-11)