

The People We Write Off

Nineveh | Week 1

Nate Marsh / August 9, 2026

For some people, we have written the final chapter of their story, even though God is still holding the pen.

You can run from God, resist God, and even be angry with God—but you cannot outrun the mercy of a God who refuses to give up on you.



Jonah 1:1-3

1. _____ Restricts Our Compassion.

Jonah 4:2b

We do not get to draw the boundaries of God's mercy.

2. _____ Reverses God's Direction.

Jonah 1:4-6; 9-10; 15

You cannot move away from the people God loves without also moving away from the heart of God.

3. Mercy _____ Both the Rebel and the Religious.

Jonah 1:17

Mercy does not always remove consequences, but mercy always meets us in the consequences.

Questions for Further Study

1. Who were the “Ninevites” of Jonah’s world, and why would God’s command have been so difficult for him?
2. Pastor Nate said, “Grace was wonderful when it flowed toward Jonah, but grace became offensive when it flowed toward Nineveh.” When are we tempted to place limits on who deserves grace?
3. How can we recognize the difference between establishing wise boundaries and writing someone off completely?
4. Read 2 Kings 14:23–27. What do these verses reveal about Jonah’s background and previous ministry? How might his national loyalty have influenced his attitude toward Nineveh?
5. Read Matthew 5:43–48. How does Jesus’ command to love our enemies challenge Jonah’s attitude—and ours?