

A brass compass is the central focus, resting on dark, jagged volcanic rocks. The compass is open, with its lid propped up. The background is a soft-focus sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall mood is contemplative and suggests a journey or a search for direction.

M. I. A.: The Story of Jonah

Steering Servants back to Stewardship



Biblical Idea: Jonah 4:1-11
God orchestrated a series of appointments to expose Jonah's heart.

A brass compass is shown resting on dark, jagged rocks. The compass is open, with the lid propped up. The background is a blurred sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The text is overlaid on the lower left portion of the image.

Jonah burned with anger toward the LORD for his compassionate relenting (4:1).

A brass compass is shown resting on dark, jagged rocks. The compass is open, with the lid propped up. The background is a blurred sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Jonah disclosed God's character as the reason he originally fled to Tarshish (4:2).

A brass compass is the central focus, resting on dark, jagged volcanic rocks. The compass is open, with its lid propped up. The background is a soft-focus sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Jonah felt death a better option than witnessing the Lord's compassion on the people of Nineveh (4:3–4).

A brass compass is the central focus, resting on dark, jagged volcanic rocks. The compass is open, with its lid propped up. The face of the compass is visible, showing cardinal and intercardinal directions (N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW) and degree markings. The background is a soft-focus sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall mood is contemplative and suggests a journey or a search for direction.

Jonah exited and sheltered outside the city in anticipation of justice (4:5).

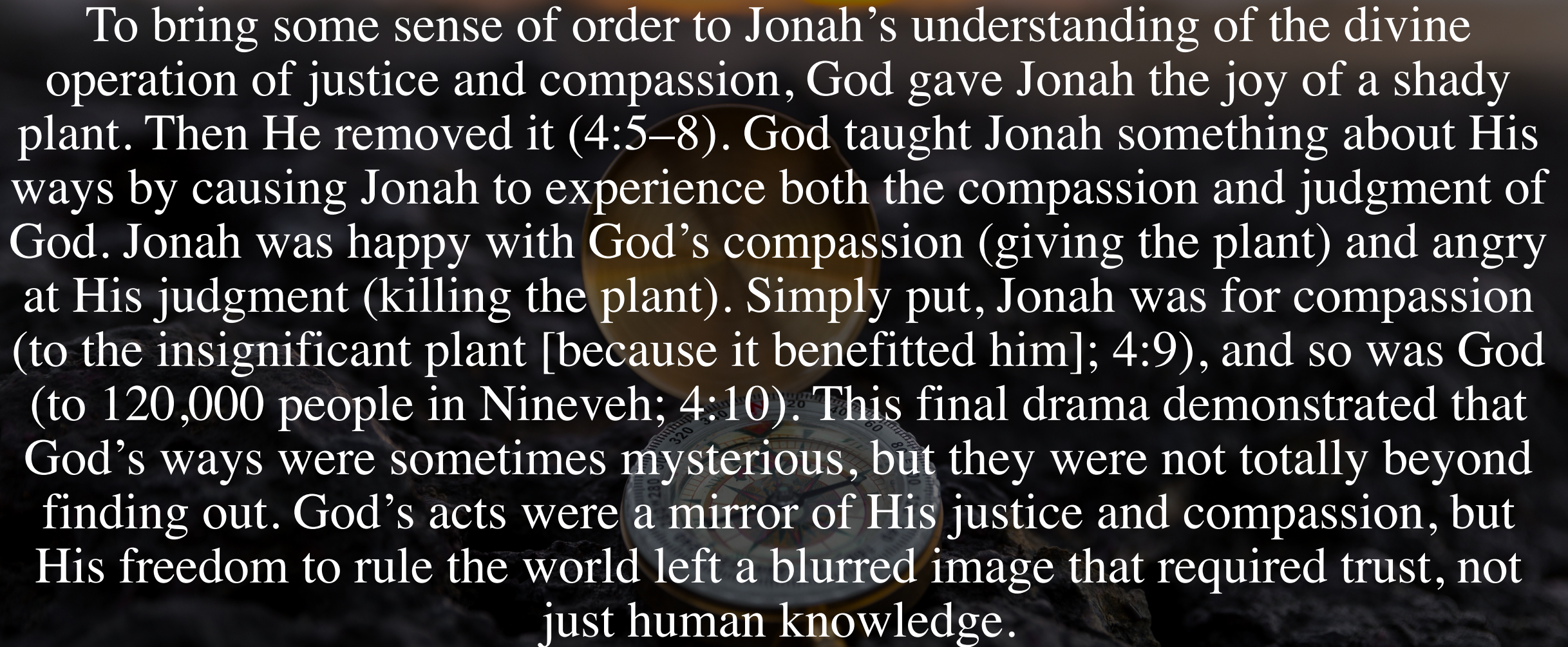
A brass compass is the central focus, resting on dark, jagged rocks. The compass is open, with the lid propped up. The background is a blurred sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon, casting a warm glow. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

The LORD God appointed a lesson for
Jonah on the Creator's compassion for
humanity (4:6-11).



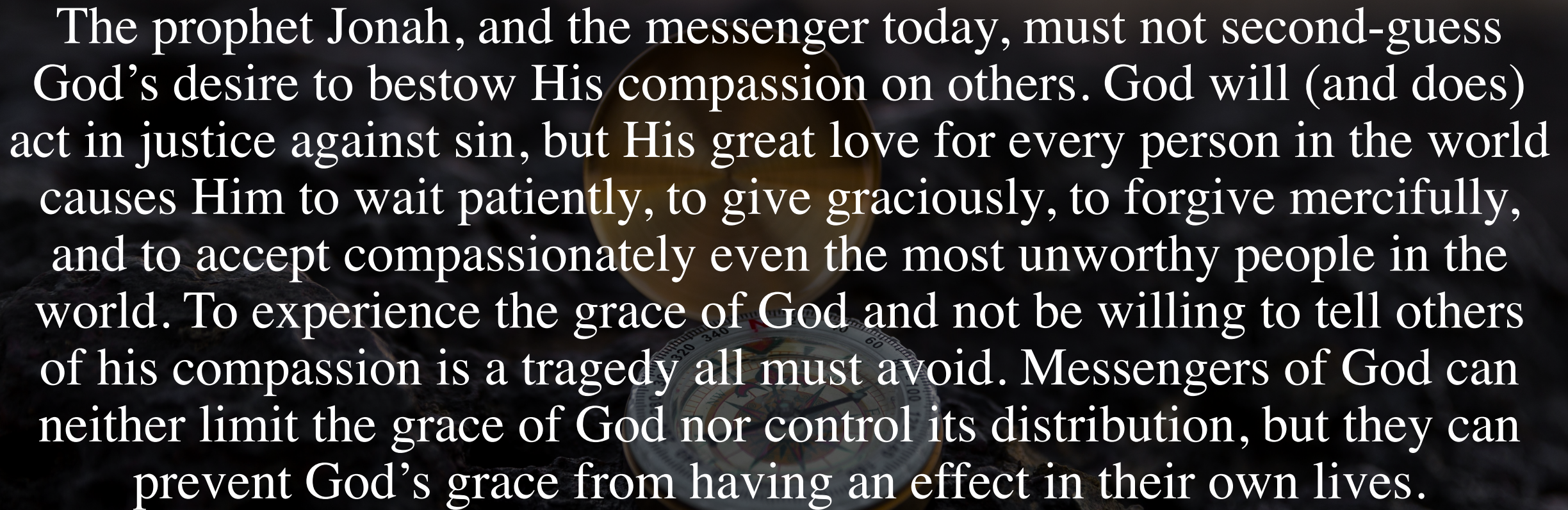
Timeless Truth:

God appoints circumstances to expose our fickleness or faith toward his freedom.

A background image featuring a compass and a globe on a dark, textured surface. The compass is positioned in the center, with its needle pointing towards the top. The globe is partially visible behind the compass. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a warm glow emanating from the top center, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is overlaid on this background in a white, serif font.

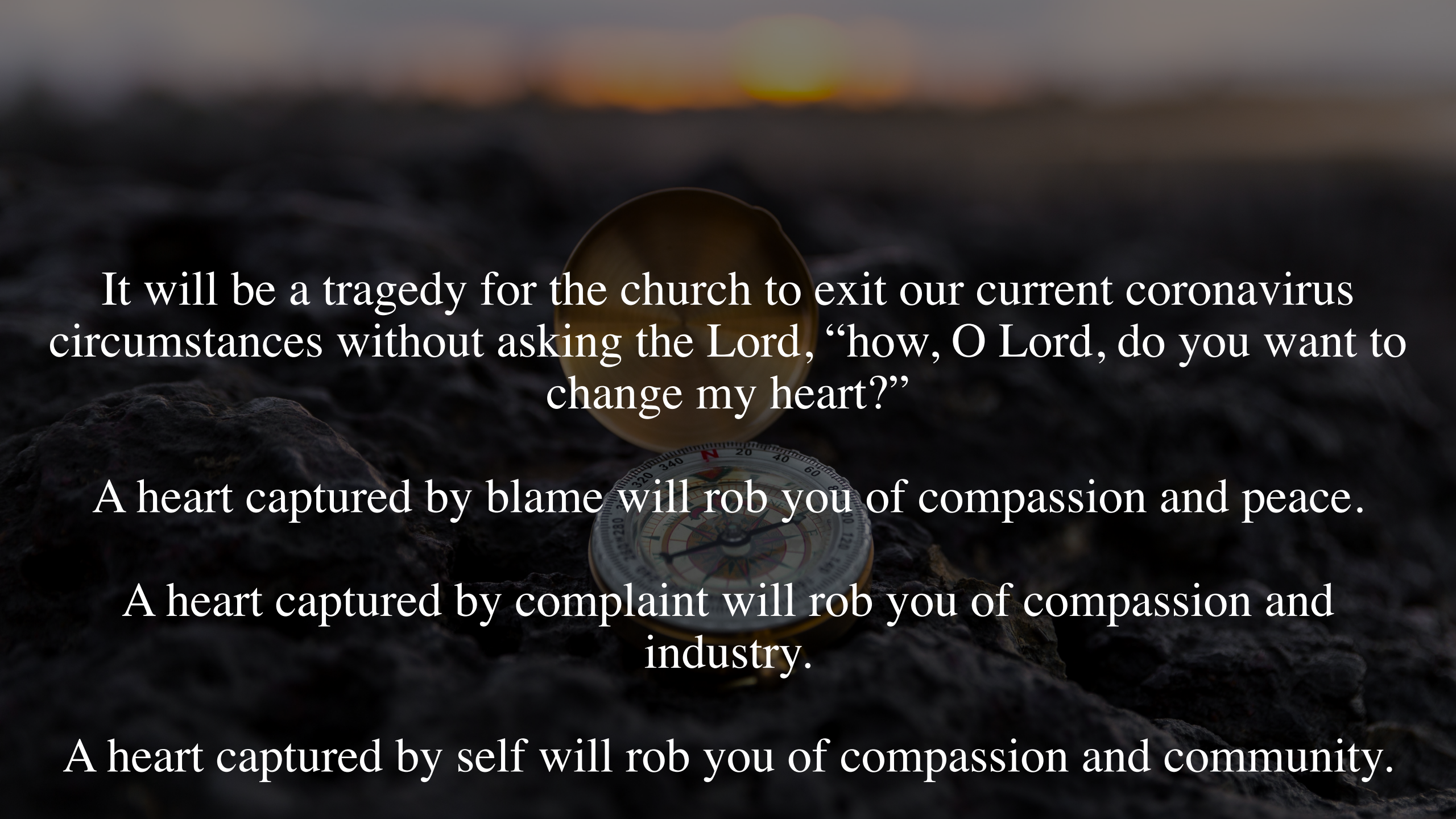
To bring some sense of order to Jonah's understanding of the divine operation of justice and compassion, God gave Jonah the joy of a shady plant. Then He removed it (4:5–8). God taught Jonah something about His ways by causing Jonah to experience both the compassion and judgment of God. Jonah was happy with God's compassion (giving the plant) and angry at His judgment (killing the plant). Simply put, Jonah was for compassion (to the insignificant plant [because it benefitted him]; 4:9), and so was God (to 120,000 people in Nineveh; 4:10). This final drama demonstrated that God's ways were sometimes mysterious, but they were not totally beyond finding out. God's acts were a mirror of His justice and compassion, but His freedom to rule the world left a blurred image that required trust, not just human knowledge.

Gary Smith (97)



The prophet Jonah, and the messenger today, must not second-guess God's desire to bestow His compassion on others. God will (and does) act in justice against sin, but His great love for every person in the world causes Him to wait patiently, to give graciously, to forgive mercifully, and to accept compassionately even the most unworthy people in the world. To experience the grace of God and not be willing to tell others of his compassion is a tragedy all must avoid. Messengers of God can neither limit the grace of God nor control its distribution, but they can prevent God's grace from having an effect in their own lives.

Gary Smith (97)

A compass and a small globe are placed on a dark, rocky surface. The background shows a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

It will be a tragedy for the church to exit our current coronavirus circumstances without asking the Lord, “how, O Lord, do you want to change my heart?”

A heart captured by blame will rob you of compassion and peace.

A heart captured by complaint will rob you of compassion and industry.

A heart captured by self will rob you of compassion and community.



Like Jonah, our circumstances call for a change of heart.



Today's Message:
Cool off an angry heart with
compassion.

How to Cool Off:

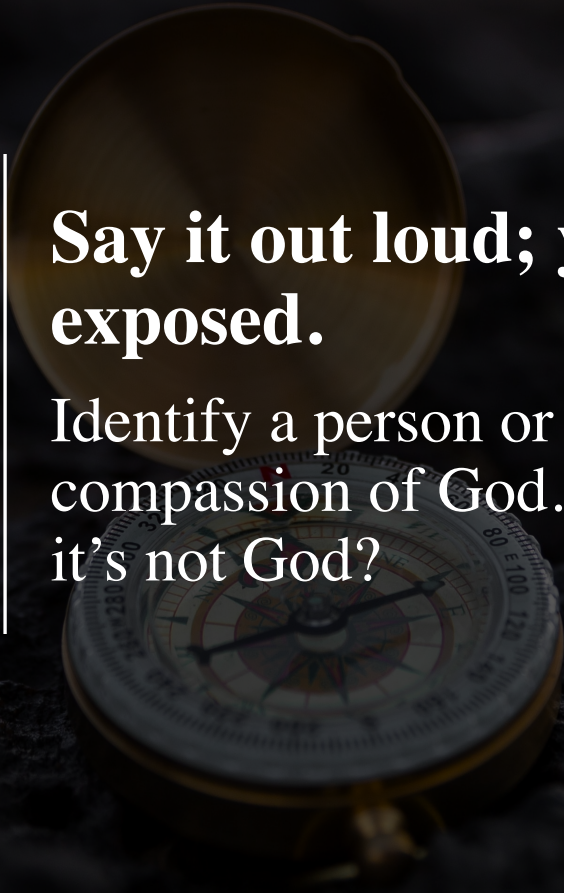
1. Say it out loud; your heart is already exposed.



Cooling Off

Say it out loud; your heart is already exposed.

Identify a person or group that doesn't deserve the compassion of God. Who are you mad at? Are you sure it's not God?



How to Cool Off:

2. Check your
traditional
assumptions.



Cooling Off

Check your traditional assumptions.

Evaluate your understanding and traditional way of understanding God's compassion. In your mind and heart, is God free to be compassionate to whom he will? Or do you have other traditional loyalties that prohibit you from being able to think that way?

How to Cool Off:

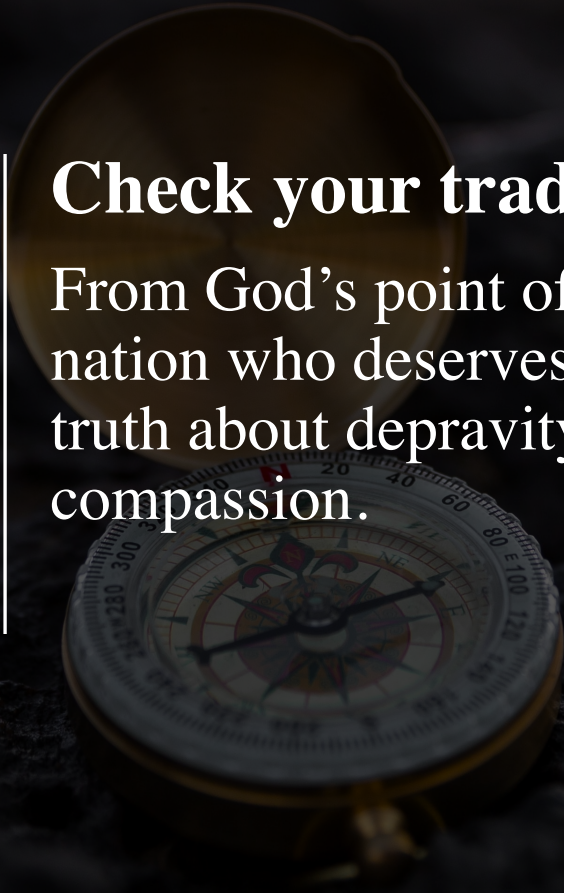
3. Recall depravity.



Cooling Off

Check your traditional assumptions.

From God's point of view, is there really any person or nation who deserves his compassion and mercy? The truth about depravity is that no one deserves compassion.



How to Cool Off:

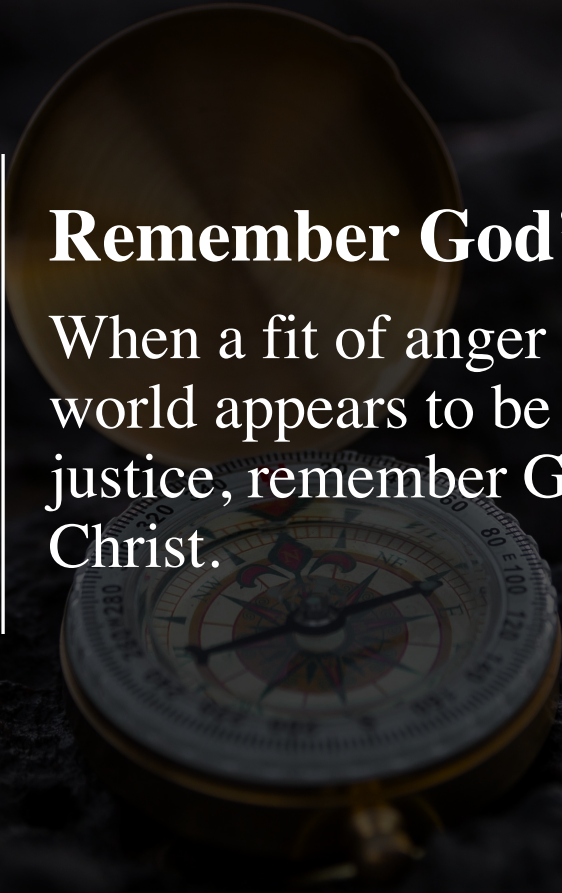
4. Remember God's
compassion to you.



Cooling Off

Remember God's compassion to you.

When a fit of anger swells up in you about how the world appears to be running and you begin to dish out justice, remember God's mercy toward you in Jesus Christ.



How to Cool Off:

5. Integrate.



Cooling Off

Integrate.

Prayerfully find the biblical mix of God's justice and compassion in his freedom and goodness.



How to Cool Off:

6. Become.



Cooling Off

Become.

The Holy Spirit aims to make us into a peculiar people, not an angry people. Compassion is peculiar.



How to Cool Off:

7. Find strength in the
tension of life's
circumstances.



Cooling Off

Find strength in the tension.

Much of life is lived while bearing up under many tensions and challenges. The Lord provides grace for strengthening. Be modest and consistent, slow and steady. Avoid extremes. Seek help when needed.

How to Cool Off:

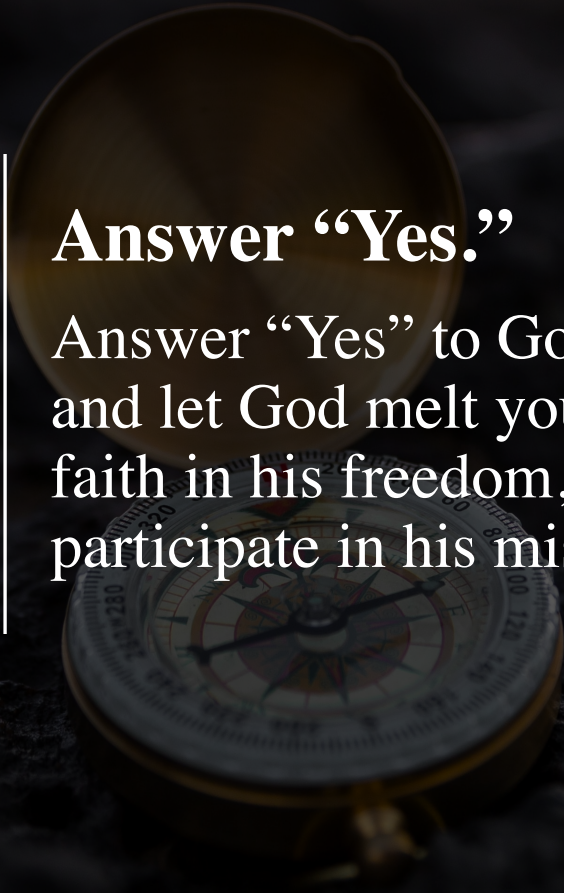
8. Answer “Yes.”



Cooling Off

Answer “Yes.”

Answer “Yes” to God’s question at the end of Jonah, and let God melt your angry heart into an integrated faith in his freedom, so that you may be set free to participate in his mission with an undivided heart.





Emma's Compassion is NOT M.I.A.!!

How a child's compassion raised over \$210 for Hessed House!

A brass compass is the central focus, resting on dark, jagged volcanic rocks. The compass is open, with its lid propped up. The background is a soft-focus sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall mood is contemplative and navigational.

M. I. A.: The Story of Jonah

Steering Servants back to Stewardship