

# Perspective is Everything



## 01. READ



<sup>9</sup> Then God asked Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "Yes, it's right!" he replied. "I'm angry enough to die!" <sup>10</sup> And the Lord said, "You cared about the plant, which you did not labor over and did not grow. It appeared in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> So may I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than a hundred twenty thousand people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals?"

## 02. REFLECT

**H**ave you ever been in a bad mood? Your friends and family try to cheer you up and make you laugh, but that only makes it worse. You are so stuck in your frustrated, irritated state of mind that you can't move passed it or see anything good in the current situation. Growing up, I (Kayla Jeffers) was the queen of "pouting" - that's right, we're calling it for what it really is. I could flip a switch, turn on a mood, and make myself at home in my pity party. I would try to invite others into my misery, but most of the time they were smart enough to steer clear of my proposition.

Fortunately, my mom was more strong-willed than I was (obviously the origin of my tenacious spirit). She would

only allow me to revel in my pity party for so long before saying these profound words, "The only person your pouting hurts is you." Man! I can hear those words echoing in my head to this day. Truth be told, I need to be reminded of that phrase even now as an adult. I cannot allow my attitude and perspective to be negatively affected every time something does not go my way.

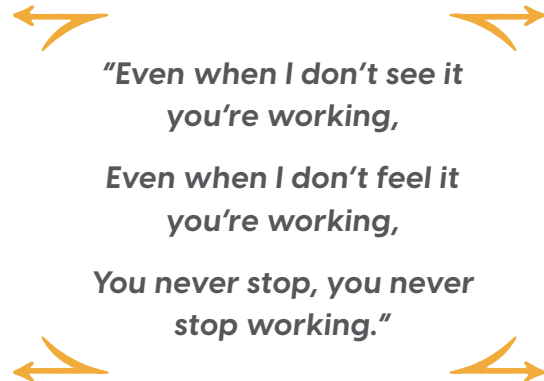
So what does this have to do with Jonah? I'm so glad you asked! Remember all of his dramatic meltdowns, or should I say temper tantrums? And here we are again...almost like deja vu. Jonah is so caught up in this situation about the dying plant. He is so mad that God sent the worm to kill the plant and ruin his shady spot. He is so angry that he can't

see passed it. Can you relate? Have you ever been so angry about something in the moment, only to realize that it wasn't that big of a deal later on? That hits a little too close to home, eh?

What Jonah needed was a perspective change. And the Lord spoke to him in such a way that broadened his point of view and moved him to see beyond himself. God challenged him to abandon his selfish heart and to see the Ninevites through the lens of a merciful, heavenly Father. The Scripture does not tell us how Jonah responded, but we can only hope that he was filled with compassion for the Ninevites after his conversation with God.

Where do you find yourself? The way you respond when things don't go your way reveals a lot about the condition of your heart. Are you pouting your way through life when your circumstances do not match your expectations? Are you pushing people away because of the negativity in your heart? Or are you choosing to see the silver lining—remembering that God is always at work in all situations?

Waymaker, written by Sinach, is a great reminder of God's constant work in our lives,



Cling to the perspective that God is love and He has a big plan for you, even if it looks completely different than you ever imagined. Let His love flow through you to be a signal of hope to everyone you meet.

### O3. RESPOND

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- ▶ Have you ever been in a bad mood, only to realize that it was not such a big deal after all?
- ▶ How does the conversation God had with Jonah in this passage relate to your life today?
- ▶ Is there an area in your life currently affected by negativity? Why is it hard to change your perspective? Write a prayer asking God to change your heart and help you see where He is working.

### O4. REMEMBER

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