**When God’s Compassion and Mercy Conflict**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 30: Nahum

McDonald Bible Methodist

Pastor Joey Ratcliff

September 27, 2020

**SERMON NOTES**

Principle 1: Sin destroys everything it touches.

Principle 2: God’s longsuffering mercy toward the sinner prolongs the suffering of the victim.

The cry of the oppressed: “How long, O Lord?”

1. **The Structure of Nahum**

Nahum 1: God sovereignly executes justice on earth.

* He responds to the cry of the afflicted. (See Psa. 18)
* No one can stand before him. (1:5)

Nahum 2: Nineveh will be destroyed

* God strongly opposes evil (2:13)

Nahum 3: God judged her violent oppression

* Nineveh, a deadly “prostitute,” would be publicly shamed (3:4-6)
* Nations rejoice at her fall and their deliverance (3:19)

1. **Life-changing Lessons from Nahum**
2. Sinful rebellion sets us up as God’s enemy (2:13, 3:5)

*Don’t take sin lightly, because God doesn’t.*

1. God’s sovereignty inspires trust in His care (ch. 1)

*He isn’t “holding His breath” on the*

*presidential race or supreme court nomination!*

1. This message speaks comfort to the afflicted (1:7, 13, 15)

*God sees and cares, so take refuge in Him (Psa 34:8)*

1. God is on the side of His people (2:2, Rom. 3:31)

*In His opposition to evil, God stands with its victims.*

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

**Bible study:** Read Nahum and mark every reference to water or flooding.

1. 1. Nineveh was destroyed when, during its siege by Babylon, its moats were flooded, destroying sections of the walls. What does this teach us about God’s involvement in the destruction?
2. 2. What are some ways that God may exercise His sovereignty in the world today, as regards the fate of nations?
3. Consider the title of the message. For whom did God have compassion? For whom was he showing and longsuffering? Why did compassion ultimately have to win out?
4. Nahum means “comfort.” Discuss times throughout history when God’s sovereignty over the kingdoms of the world would have been a comfort to God’s people. Why is it a comfort for Christians today?
5. In the sermon, we discussed how sin destroys, and how God’s mercy towards sinners may prolong the suffering of the victims. Why is it difficult for us to conceptualize a conflict between God’s mercy and His compassion? How are you able to reconcile that?
6. What are some evidences that we are not viewing sin the same way God sees sin? How can we correct our thinking and behavior?

**Prayer from Nahum**

“God, I thank you that even though we are surrounded by (*a frightening aspect of our world*), we can take comfort in your sovereignty.