JONAH

God's Heart for the Nations

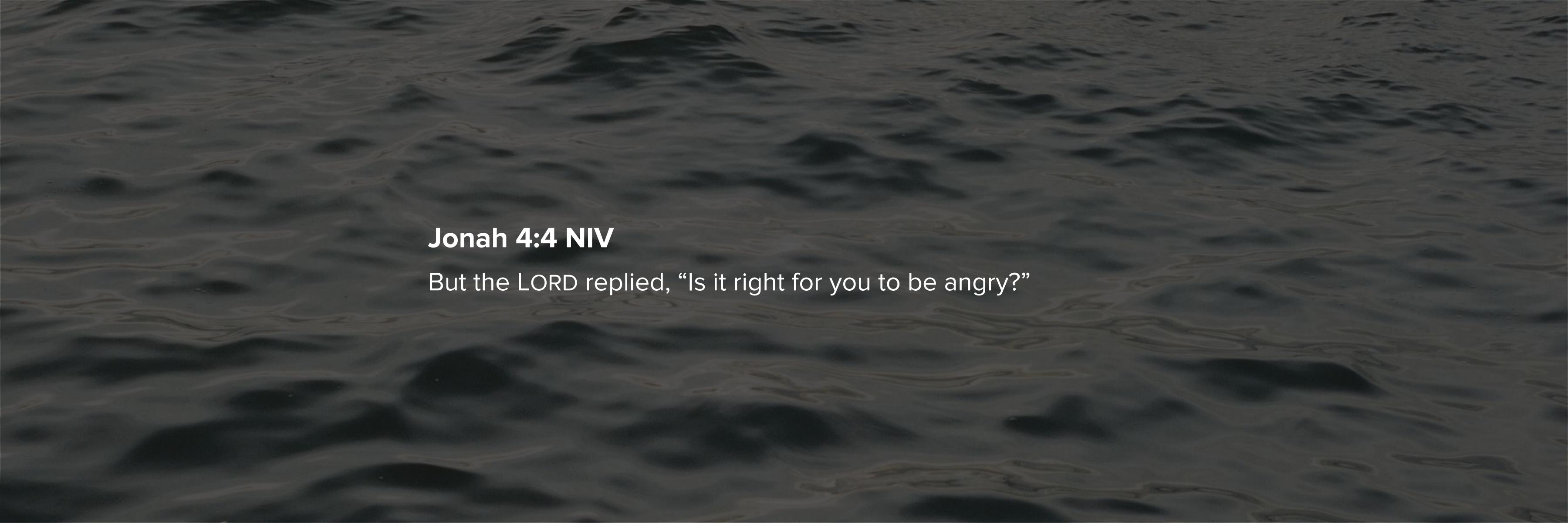JONAH 4:1-11

Rejecting God's plan leads to misery and a hardened heart.
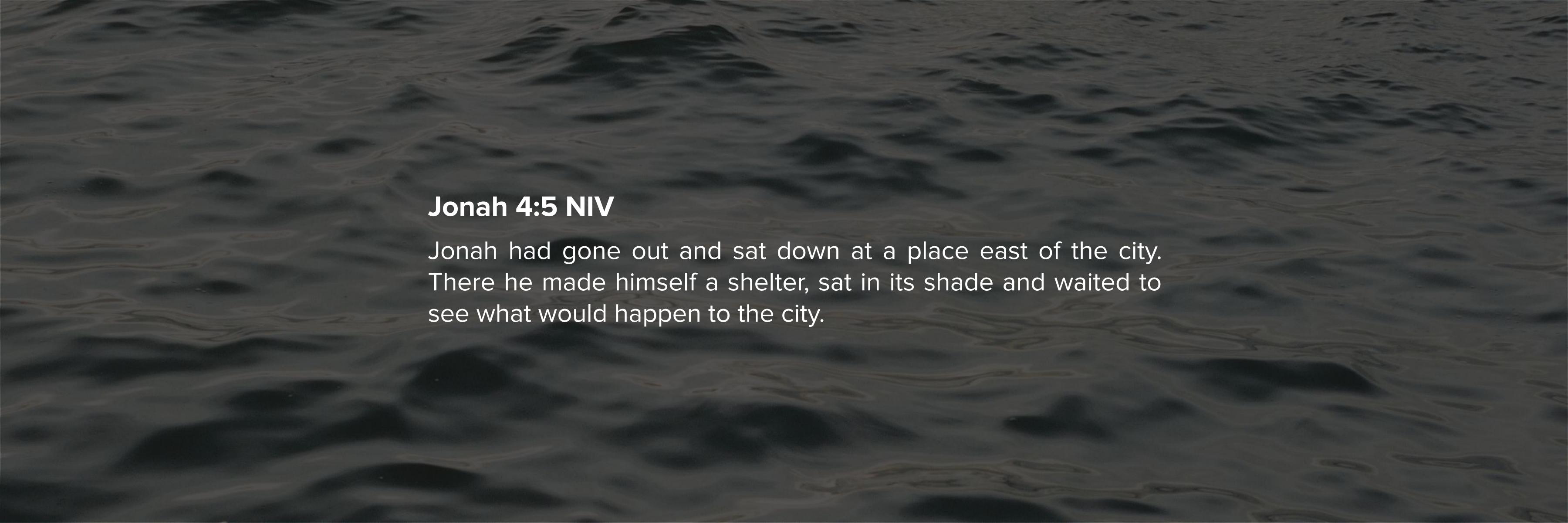
Jonah 4:1-3 NIV

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. [2] He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. [3] Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

Exodus 34:6b NIV

"The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness..."

> "

The generosity of God displeased Jonah exceedingly and he slashed with angry prayer at the graciousness of the Almighty. "I told You so," he screamed. "I knew what You would do, You dirty Forgiver. You bless Your enemies and show kindness to those who despitefully use You. I would rather die than live in a world with a God like You. And don't try to forgive me either."

- **Thomas John Carlisle**, *You! Jonah! (1968)*

Jonah 4:4 NIV

But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Jonah 4:5 NIV

Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city.

Jonah 4:6-8 NIV

Then the LORD God **provided** a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. [7] But at dawn the next day God **provided** a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. [8] When the sun rose, God **provided** a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

Jonah 4:9 NIV

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is", he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

Jonah 4:10-11 NIV

But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. [11] And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left— and also many animals?"

Rejecting God's plan leads to misery and a hardened heart.