



PART 1: Divine Intervention

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WARM UP QUESTION: Have you ever had something happen (or not happen) in your life that you just couldn't explain?

READ: *Jonah 1:1-16*

FOCUS: God's mission is an intervention for "the other" to show His goodness.

OBSERVE:

- **In order to show His goodness, God will ask you to do things that are not part of your "job description."** Nineveh was a cruel city headed for destruction. In Jonah 1:1-3, God wanted to use Jonah to divinely intervene, showing His goodness to the Ninevites. Rather than obey, Jonah ran away. His pride hindered the prophetic work in and through his life.
- **Jonah's sin shows us three things:** (1) Conscious: Like Jonah, we are conscious of our sin as we are doing it; (2) Crazy: Jonah was a prophet and he knew better than to think God would not notice him running away; (3) Costly: Our sin will always cost us something.
- **Storms in life are not a punishment, but a Divine intervention of God's love.** Jonah 1:4 says God sent the storm. This was not a punishment but a redirection for Jonah. Like Jonah, we have free will to choose what we want; however, we cannot choose or control the consequence.

- **Divine intervention for "the other":** "The other" is anyone who sins without turning from sin and trusting God. To Jonah, the sailors were "the other" but they ended up showing faith in God. Really, Jonah was "the other" in chapter one.
- **Jonah is a foreshadowing of Jesus.** In Mathew 12:39-41 Jesus identified with Jonah but made the distinction that He was "better than Jonah." Jonah was martyred for his sin; yet, Jesus was martyred for the sin of others.

REFLECT:

- Jonah's prejudice against the Ninivites perverted his perspective on God's love for them. Reflect honestly on whether you have a particular prejudice that hinders God's love flowing through you?

TAKE ACTION:

- Repent from specific sins/ areas in your heart that have prevented you from obeying God.
- Pray and ask God who are the people that He is calling you to reach and see what steps you can take to reach out to them this week.

PRAY:

Lord, thank You for Your goodness. Thank You that Your mission is to intervene, showing Your goodness to all. Help me to first see myself as the one who needs Your intervention and merciful salvation. Then, help me to be an instrument of Your divine intervention on this earth. Amen.

