

NAME _____ DATE _____

The greatest threat to faith is not the wickedness of the world, but the distorted worldviews we allow to take us captive, even inside the church. God calls us, like Jonah, to confront deception with truth, mercy, and obedience rather than fear and tradition.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

¹But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ²...for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

¹¹And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city...?

RELIGION AND FAITH — FILL IN WHAT YOU HEAR

RELIGION SAYS	FAITH SAYS
I follow God by performing the right rituals and holding the right beliefs.	I follow God wherever He leads, even when it disrupts my worldview.
It is external. It manages behavior.	It is internal. It transforms the heart.
It creates insiders and outsiders.	It tears down the dividing wall.
You're suffering because God is punishing you.	You're suffering, but God is with you in it.
You're in the fish because you failed.	You're in the fish because God refuses to lose you.
Get yourself together.	Let God pull you together.

THE LINE THAT STAYED WITH ME

THE QUESTION I AM TAKING HOME

MY NINEVEH — THE PERSON OR GROUP WHOSE FORGIVENESS WOULD BOTHER ME

THIS WEEK I WILL

- ☐ **Name your Nineveh.**
Write down the person, group, or nation whose forgiveness would genuinely bother you. Do not soften it. That name is the assignment.
- ☐ **Pray for them by name, out loud, three times this week.**
Not for their defeat. For their good. Notice what it does to you, and notice how hard it is the first time.
- ☐ **Find the tradition underneath the reaction.**
Trace one strong opinion about who deserves grace back to where you learned it. Scripture, or inheritance?
- ☐ **Read Jonah in one sitting.**
About eight minutes. Read it as an insider, not a spectator, and stop at the final question instead of closing the book.

- ☐ Tell one person the truth about how you are doing.

Jonah went below deck and went to sleep. If you have been doing a version of that, break the silence with someone safe.

- ☐ Say thank you for a confinement.

Name one closed door or delay that slowed you down enough to hear God. Call it mercy rather than punishment.

- ☐ Go where you would not have gone.

One conversation, one act of service, one room you normally avoid. Obedience that costs nothing is not what Jonah was asked for.

PRAYER

JONAH — A Bible Study Series. Taught by Pastors Henry D. Borom, Jr. and Lindsey S. Jordan, Jr. Bethesda Christian Ministries. Full study, commentary, and cross-references at jonah.studywithbethesda.org.

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