

## **FIVE: What is your potential?**

The story of Jonah helps us understand the scary call of God. When faced with the impossible, we typically question our ability to accomplish it. Can I do this? Am I able? But God never intends us to do the impossible alone or by our own efforts. God calls us to the impossible because He is able to accomplish it. In only five verses God shows us how to change the way we measure our potential.

Read: Jonah 3:1-5

*“God has the power to do whatever he wants to do through whomever he calls to whomever he wants.”*

1) Like Jonah, we choose to run from God when he calls us to scary or impossible situations. Our obedience is based on our perceived potential. We believe we are unable to accomplish his call, and therefore are unwilling to try. Is your obedience based on your own potential? When are you most likely to run from God?

*“There is no finality of human decision, behavior, or action that can't be turned around by the grace of Jesus.”*

2) You cannot be totally confident in your potential while knowing how sinful you truly are. If you were in God's place, how would you have judged Jonah? How would you judge someone like you?

3) God came to Jonah “a second time” with the same grace that God has shown us in Jesus Christ. Are your decisions based in the fear of God's judgment or in the grace that knows no boundaries?

4) God called Jonah out of his comfort zone to go to his enemies with an unpopular message. This call was not just scary, it was impossible! Is God calling you to do something scary or even impossible? Write it down. Do you want to run from this call?

5) God's grace confronts our fears. Read Gal. 2:20. God's power is not limited by your abilities or by results. How does that truth confront your fears? Be specific.

6) God's grace comforts our hearts. Read Gal. 2:20 again. God's love for you is not based on your abilities or results. How does the power of Christ in you comfort your fears and give you peace in your anxieties? Be specific.

*"God does not call us because we are able, He calls us because He is able."*

STREET LEVEL TRUTH: Your call is not to be the agent of change, but a tool in the hands of the One who changes hearts. The measure of your potential is your Savior. Surrendering to God allows very ordinary people to do extraordinary, restorative things.

PRAAYER: God, thank you for Jesus. Help me learn that my potential is not based on my abilities, but on the completed work of Christ. Help me remember that even when your call appears impossible, you are able. My potential is rooted in you. Lord, may I respond to you daily in courage and joy through the power of Christ in me. I praise and thank you. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE: Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.