

God's Surprising Grace  
Jonah 1:7-17

I. God sometimes uses unbelievers to accomplish His purpose.

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*And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”*

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*Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. (vv.9-10)*

“The mariners likely would have heard about the Hebrews and their frightening God. He was the God who broke Pharaoh’s power in order to set his people free, and who parted the waters of the Red Sea for the Hebrews to pass through, but then drowned the pursuing Egyptians. This was the stern God who took his people into . . . Canaan with such frightening power.”

“Therefore, they realized . . . that this was a great God, this God of the Hebrews; and it was this God, not a weak god, who was pursuing them for the sake of Jonah.”

- Richard Phillips

*Therefore they called out to the LORD, ‘O LORD, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.’ So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging (Jonah 1:14–15).*

II. God sometimes uses miraculous interventions to put us on the path He has chosen for us.

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*But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up.  
(v.4)*

II. God sometimes uses miraculous interventions to put us on the path He has chosen for us.

*And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. (v.17a)*

III. God sometimes uses us, in spite of our rebellion, to bless others.

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*Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. (v.16)*

*But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.  
(Heb.3:13)*