

Global Culture

What's Our Part in Ending Racism?

Jonah 1:7-16

September 17, 2023

Introduction: Are you a thermometer or a thermostat? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote that for early Christians "the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society." We're struggling today with race. Are we struggling in ways that just reflect society or that reflect Jesus and the unique promise of his good news to transform society through followers like you? "Global Culture" is one of our Five Values at UPC. It's time not just to take the temperature but flip a switch.

Prayer: Father, open us up to your Word and each other as we try to hear your voice guiding us to become people who fulfill your purposes in our world. Amen.

Read: Jonah 1:7-16

Review: How did Pastor George's overview of God's plan for the Nations change your thinking?

Discussion:

1. What has God asked Jonah to do? See Jonah 1:1-6. How did this assignment cross cultural boundaries? Why would he not want to do it? See 2 Kings 15:19, 17:3-6.
2. Why is Jonah on the boat? Who is in the boat with him? What different cultures are present? What cultures do you interact with in your life?
3. Jonah is identified as the cause of the storm. What is his solution? What risks does Jonah's plan have for the sailors? What plans do the sailors try?
4. Jonah is cast into the sea. What do the sailors experience and how does that change their relationship with God?

Application: Ask God to show you what your part is in ending racism.

Prayer: Father, speak to our hearts clearly as we discern what role you would have us play in ending racism. Thank you that where you send us, you also equip us for our work there. Amen.