



Excellence Through Grace

A visual summary of the sermon
delivered by Zion Oconor.

Presented at Downsview SDA Church | Guest: Crawford Adventist Academy East

The Intersection of Effort and Favor

Playfair Display

Definitions

Grace: Unmerited, freely given favor. Love and assistance entirely unearned by human effort.

Excellence: The standard we strive for when representing Jesus.

“Excellence is what we should all strive to achieve... however, excellence is not something we can achieve on our own.”

— Zion Oconor

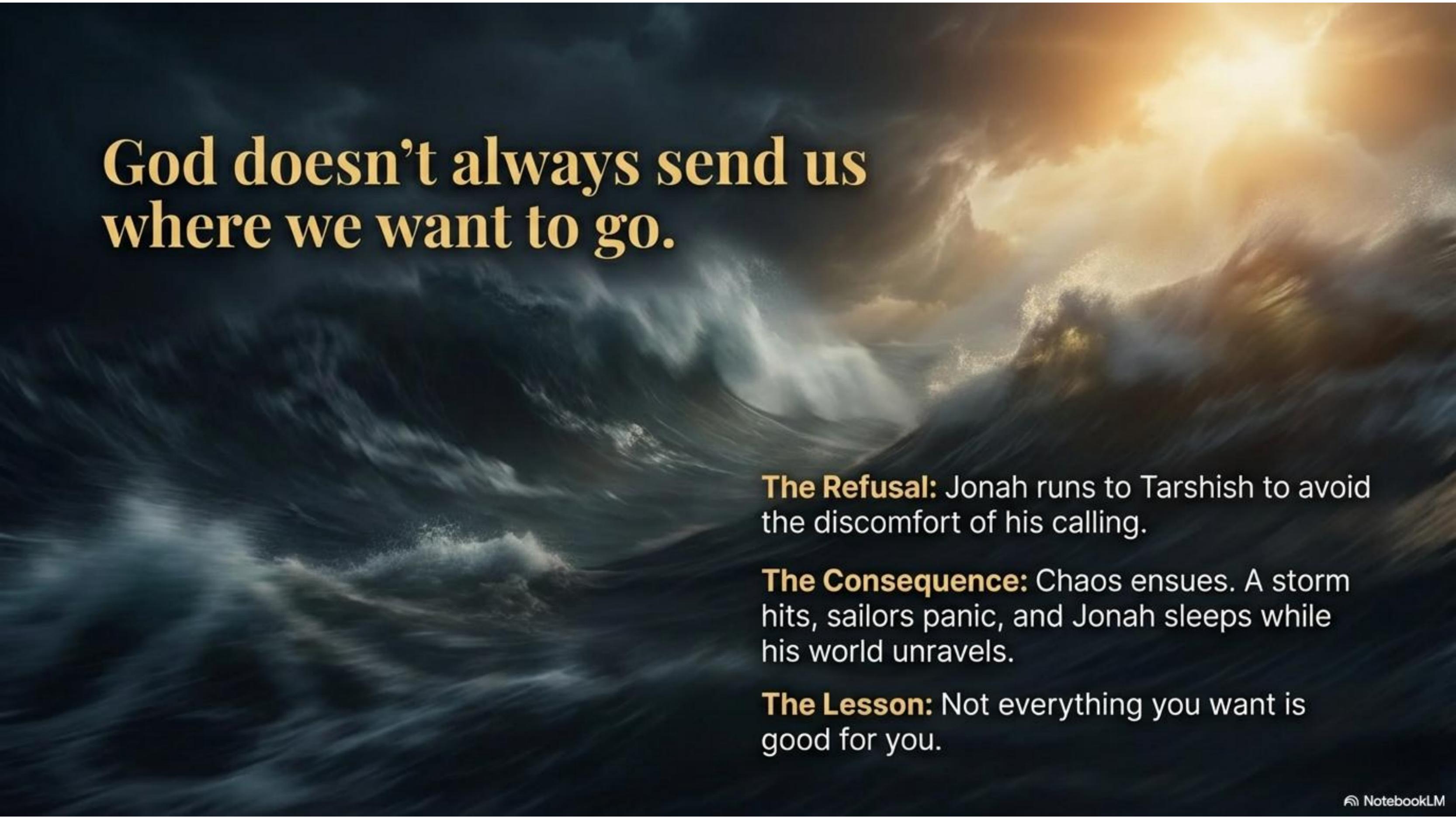


The darker the room,
the brighter the light.

The Setting: Nineveh, a ruthless, lawless city where people killed without remorse.

The Conflict: Jonah writes them off as a lost cause. Why send a good man to a bad place?

The Insight: Grace is most effective in the darkest places.



**God doesn't always send us
where we want to go.**

The Refusal: Jonah runs to Tarshish to avoid the discomfort of his calling.

The Consequence: Chaos ensues. A storm hits, sailors panic, and Jonah sleeps while his world unravels.

The Lesson: Not everything you want is good for you.



Grace meets us in the depth.

The Pivot: Jonah is thrown overboard. The storm stops.

The Abyss: Swallowed by a whale for three days. In the silence of the deep, Jonah finally prays.

Insight: God gives strength and courage where there was none previously.

Transformation in unlikely places.

The Action: Released from the deep, Jonah obeys and warns the city.

The Outcome: The “ruthless” city listens immediately and turns from evil.

The Equation: Jonah’s Obedience + God’s Grace = Total Cultural Transformation.

The struggle with unmerited mercy.

The Conflict: Jonah is angry. He wanted punishment for the wicked, not forgiveness.

The Internal Monologue: He questions God's judgment, judgment, feeling the Ninevites were 'unworthy.'

The Tension: We often struggle when grace is extended to those we deem undeserving.



Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me.

— Psalm 23:6

Given in flight:

God extends grace even
when we run (The Boat).

Given in abundance:

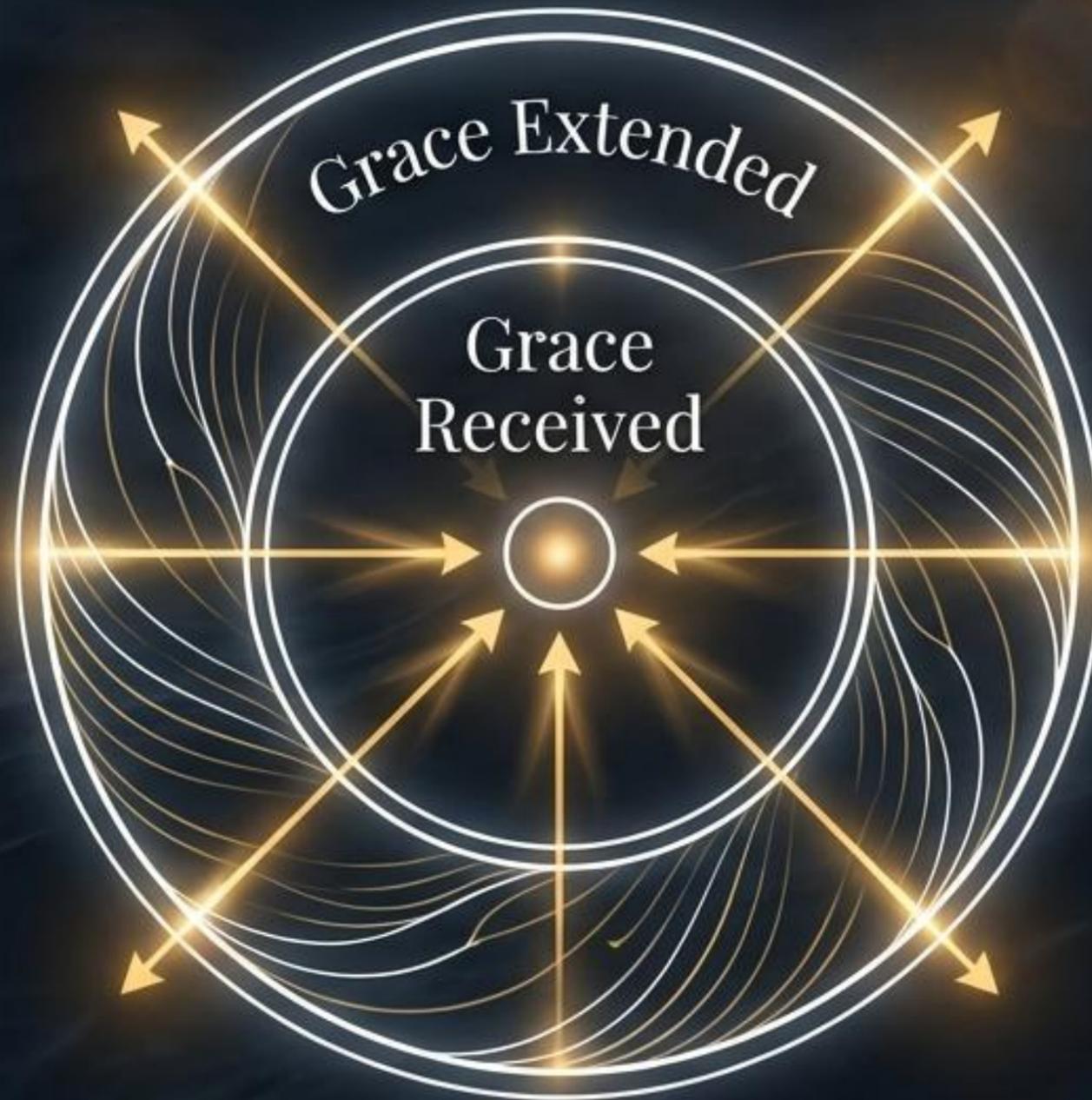
We cannot earn it
(The Whale).

Given as a pursuer:

Grace follows us all the
days of our lives.

Grace received is grace extended.

- Patience with difficult people
- Offering kindness when undeserved
- Speaking with gentleness



- Forgiving mistakes
- Listening with empathy
- Helping without expectation

You don't have to be perfect. God's grace works perfectly in you.

"My strength is made perfect in weakness." — 2 Corinthians 12:9

We are making history right now.
We are making **history**
right now.

Context: Reflecting on Black History Month and the legacy of faith.

The Call: “Every word you speak is history. Every song you sing is history... You get to decide whether that history is for good or for God.”

A Benediction of Excellence

May the grace discussed today inspire and uplift you.
May everything you touch in life be excellent through His power.
May you be found in the Kingdom when He comes.

Amen.