



The First Domino

“You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse!”

The Apostle Paul | Romans 2:1 (NLT)

Who plays dominos as intended?

As kids, we’d painstakingly align the chips in anticipation of an electrifying chain reaction. Inevitably, an accidental bump—or a friend’s intentional one—would trigger our unfinished creation’s demise. Ugh... Finally, after countless attempts, the first domino was ready to be tipped. One small tap, and the excitement began. Magical!

Before my spiritual “First Domino” was tipped—humbly accepting Christ—I considered myself a good person. The ensuing chain reaction continues to reveal otherwise. Yet now I’m tempted to look at others’

sinfulness with contempt. I hear the news and react, "That's so wrong!" I'd like to correct people's behavior by "hitting their dominos smack in the middle."

Have I forgotten my own story?

Reminded of my childhood days playing dominos, I've come to understand that a hit in the middle leads to disaster.

Reflect: What was I like before my First Domino was tipped?

God challenged Jonah when he asked him to go to Nineveh and tip this people's First Domino.

"But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord." (Jonah 1:3)

Jonah preferred to condemn this sin-filled city... ever felt this way? Pridefully, he'd forgotten what God had done for him. Facing death in the belly of a great fish, he finally repented, remembering his own sinfulness.

"As my life was slipping away, I remembered the Lord. And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple. Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all God's mercies. But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows. For my salvation comes from the Lord alone." (Jonah 2:7-10)

God's dramatic intervention led Jonah to remember what he was like before his First Domino fell. Freshly humbled, he set off on his Mission, allowing God to use him to tip Nineveh's First Domino.

"With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused." The Apostle Paul (Ephesians 4:17)

Like Jonah, it's easy for us to condemn unsaved people by confronting them with the truth. But lacking a relationship with Christ, why wouldn't they do the things they do? By comparison, Paul reminds us in Romans that we are just as bad and have no excuse!

*Consider: **Perhaps I've become confused?***

Like hitting a line of dominos in the middle, broadsiding unbelievers with righteousness—whether by accident or intent—only condemns us. Have you noticed the anger it produces and the separation it creates? Is hypocrisy not one of the top labels placed on Christians?

Instead, an unsaved person's First Domino must be tipped. Only then can it tip the next, and the next and the next toward righteousness... God forging fresh humility as each domino falls. Jonah's humbling wake-up call clarified that God's love for the unsaved overruled Jonah's condemnation. No excuses!

Like Jonah, we must regularly revisit the our own fatal trajectory

before our First Domino fell. Freshly humbled, another domino tips, and we're ready to do what God has asked.

*Imagine: **My dominos tipping one after another... my Mission advancing with each tip.***

Tipping the First Domino is the beginning of all things good—in others and in you. As you work to advance your Mission, God will press you to deepen your grasp of the significance of what happened when your First Domino fell. With each cycle, fresh humility will tip another domino so your Mission can advance... Magical!

Want to be used greatly by God? Remain freshly focused on...

The First Domino

Get off the grid and ask these questions

Coach's Questions:

- **Reflect:** *How have I been condemning others—those unsaved?*
- **Ask:** *What domino does this reveal that needs to be tipped?*
- **Challenge:** Keep fresh in my mind what I was like before my First Domino was tipped.
- Further insights: [Go Back to the Well](#); [Closely--Deeply](#)
- Don't know my Mission—[Start here!](#)

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Remain humbled by the Gospel.

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.'

"But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Luke 18:9-14 (NLT)



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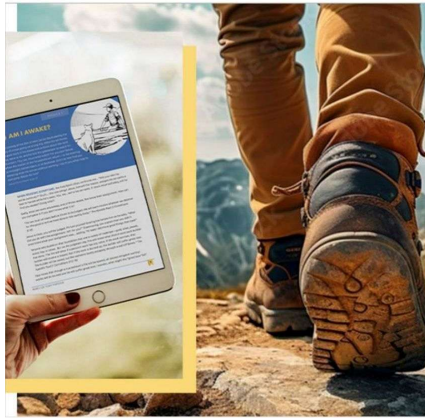
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