

Jonah 1:15

So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.

I think we all know the story of Jonah, if you don't, it's only 4 chapters and you can probably read it in about ten minutes. But also notice I didn't say the story of Jonah and the whale, because the story has nothing to do with a whale. In fact, it doesn't even say it was a whale, but rather.

† **Jonah 1:17** *Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

People say it was a whale because they think that's the largest sea creature. But when you do you are limiting God, because couldn't God had created just one fish for this particular reason? Just like people think that Eve gave Adam an apple to eat. It was not an apple, if it were it would had been called and apple tree. Also the fish is only mention three times in the book of Jonah. But this devotional is not about that, it's just a little bonus teaching.

With the story of Jonah; Jonah was being disobedient to God Who had told Jonah to go to Nineveh and in his disobedience Jonah went on a ship that was heading in the opposite direction. It would be like me, living in Texas and God telling me to go to New York and share the gospel there and instead I jump on a plane for California, which is the opposite direction. With Jonah's disobedience, it not only affected him, but everyone on the ship, because a awful storm came that was so severe that it even scared these seasoned sailor to death.

† **Jonah 1:5** *Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.*

Now that's pretty bad. Yet Jonah was so comfortable with his sin, that he was what? Yep, *Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.*

Read the entire story for yourself and you will find that there was one and only one way to make the storm stop, and that was to cast the cause of the storm (sin) out of the boat.

† **Jonah 1:12** *And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me."*

So, what storm has been in your life lately and you are wondering why it's there? There could be several possible reasons why, but one to look at is, is there sin in your life or household that may need to be cast out to make the storm stop?

- † **Isaiah 31:7** *For in that day every man shall throw away his idols of silver and his idols of gold--sin, which your own hands have made for yourselves.*
- † **Ezekiel 20:8** *But they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which were before their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. Then I said, 'I will pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.'*
- † **2 Chronicles 7:14** *if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*