

## 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 long and you can probably read it in less than 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 a whale is the largest sea creature. But when you think that way, then you are limiting God, because couldn't God had created just one fish for this particular reason? *“the LORD had prepared a great fish”*

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 *“great fish”* in the book of Jonah is only mentioned three times, yet how many put so much emphasis on the fish, rather than God? 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. Yet in his disobedience, Jonah went on a ship that was heading in the opposite direction, which was Tarshish. 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.

Yet with Jonah's disobedience, it not only affected him, but everyone on the ship, because an awful storm came that was so severe that it even scared these seasoned sailors 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.*

Think about that, Jonah's sin not only caused the seasoned sailors to fear, but they also lost all their hard work by having to throw the cargo that they were delivering overboard, so once they got to port, they would have nothing and would lose a lot of money because of it, all because of one man's sin and disobedience to the Lord. And if you think about it, that's pretty bad. Yet Jonah was so comfortable with his sin, that he was doing what?

Yep, he *“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 thing that you should ask God is, *"Is there sin in my life or household that may need to be cast out to make the storm stop?"*

If there is, do not hesitate to get rid of it immediately, unless you want to stay in the storm and cause others to feel the effects of your sin, just like Jonah did with his sin.

† **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.*