

Jonah – Jonah 1:7-16

*“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word.**”*

We find Jonah being confronted by the pagan mariners and ship captain in regards to the storm. The men have all been praying to their so-called “god” and now come to Jonah. They cast lots to see who is responsible for this storm and it falls on Jonah. Jonah is confronted and questioned on who he is and what he’s doing. We see the irony of these pagan gentiles fearing God and crying out to him while the prophet does not fear God nor cries out to Him. Let’s dig in and work through some questions.

Discussion Questions* – *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. Jonah is being confronted by the pagan mariners to determine whose account this evil or “calamity” has come from. They ask Jonah a series of questions like where are you from, what is your occupation, and who are your people? Jonah responds by saying he is a Hebrew, and he fears the Lord, the God of Heaven, who made the sea and the dry land. Jonah appears to have all the right answers but does not seem to fear or revere the Lord. It’s interesting the first time he is recorded speaking in this text, and he calls out that he is a Hebrew. It is a sense of pride or spiritual superiority because he is from God’s “chosen” people. Where do we tend to find identity? (e.g. American, educated, no-nonsense, spiritual, wise, hard worker, etc.). Like Jonah, how can that identity cause us to not fear the Lord? Really how can that identity lead us to rebellion? Jonah is looking down on these pagans and has no concern for their salvation. How does this neglect happen in our own lives to others?
2. The mariners were exceedingly afraid, and they began to question Jonah on what he had done. They began to cry out to the Lord. This is something Jonah has not even done. They are showing more fear for the Lord than Jonah is. Jonah tells them to hurl him into the sea. He is asking them to do it. The men comply and hurl him into the sea. The sea stops raging. The mariners revered and worshiped the Lord. Even though Jonah made no attempt to introduce the mariners to God we see in God’s sovereignty his mercy and grace. We are reminded that the storm was not brought for punishment but to bring Jonah back to God. What storms in your life have you seen God use to bring you back from your rebellion? How was this storm really a gift of mercy and grace?

3. It's important to understand that we are all Jonah. It's obvious that our sins impact others. Our rebellion is never in a vacuum. The consequences of our rebellion will always impact others. What tends to go through our minds when we think about sin and rebellion against God? How do we justify it? How can we remember the message of Jonah to help us find victory in this area?
4. Who today do you know needs the rescue of Jesus? Who is it that God is calling you to go to in order to make His rescue known? Spend some time in prayer for the opportunity.