

I. The Intentional Discipline of a Loving Father (4-6)

- A. **God initiates some turbulence for Jonah (4) – “But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up.”**

Scripture reveals that God will occasionally ordain trouble for His own children if they choose to rebel against Him. This activity is called divine discipline (Hebrews 12:7-11) The purpose of this activity is to bring His children back into alignment with His will.

- B. **Jonah’s sin impacted those around him (5) – “Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them.”**

Avoiding God’s will, and especially rebelling against it, removes us from the place of his purposeful blessings. This not only impacts us, but it negatively impacts those to whom are lives are connected.

- C. **A false sense of peace found Jonah (6) – “But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. So, the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.”**

The experience of inner peace can be both a fruit of the Spirit or a work of the flesh. The human heart can be so deceptive that we can actually live outside of God’s will with a false sense of peace.

II. The Painful Process of Acknowledging Our Sin (7-10)

- A. **The revealing of buried secrets (7-8) – “And they said to one another, ‘Come, let us cast lots, that we may know whose account this evil has come upon us.’ So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?”**

- B. **The revealing of our true identity (9) – “And he said to them, I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of Heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”**

- C. **The reality of the impact of our decisions (10) – “Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.”**

III. The Common Responses to Correction from God (11-17)

- A. **Self-destructive fatalism (11-12)** – “Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. 12 He said to them, Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.”
- B. **Fruitless attempts to avoid consequences (13-14)** – “Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. 14 Therefore they called out to the LORD, “O LORD, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You.”

Kingdom principle: try hard as we might, we cannot always prevent others from experiencing the consequences of their sins.

- C. **A sobering awakening to God’s holy authority (15-16)** – “So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.”

1 Tim. 5:20 – “As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.”

- D. **Strong, intentional discipline from God (17)** – “And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

God did not destroy Jonah for his rebellion. Instead, God placed Jonah in isolation so that Jonah would consider his future.