

Who Are You?

Text: Jonah 1:8–10

Pastor Larry Hof

“Tell us... What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? ... of what people art thou?”

INTRODUCTION — QUESTIONS BORN IN THE STORM

- These were desperate questions, not casual curiosity
- Seasoned sailors knew this was no ordinary storm
- God's hand was evident and undeniable

Notes:

I. WHEN LIFE GOES BEYOND THE ORDINARY

- Storms were normal to these men
- Fear was not
- Scripture tells us this storm was designed to get Jonah's attention

Notes:

II. A CHILD OF GOD IN REBELLION

- Jonah was asleep during a God-sent storm
- He was not merely distracted, but defiant
- Running from God's will does not cancel relationship—but it damages witness

Notes:

III. A TRUE CONFESSION WITH A CONTRADICTING LIFE

- Jonah confessed the right truths about God
- He acknowledged who God was
- His words were right—his direction was wrong

Notes:

IV. LIFE IN THE SAME BOAT

- We share life with:
 - Family
 - Co-workers
 - Close friends
- Fellowship means shared storms and shared consequences

Notes:

V. WHEN OTHERS PAY FOR OUR DISOBEDIENCE

- Jonah's private rebellion became a public crisis
- Others were placed in danger they did not choose
- Disobedience is never isolated

Notes:

VI. "WHY DID YOU DO THIS?" — IDENTITY EXPOSED

- Jonah's life contradicted his testimony
- The issue was not ignorance, but inconsistency

- Hypocrisy confuses those closest to belief

Notes:

VII. DAMAGE DONE IN THE NAME OF GOD

- Many walk away hurt—not from Christ, but from inconsistent believers
- When faith is spoken without love, damage is done
- Children and young believers are often the ones wounded most

Notes:

VIII. THE FINAL QUESTION — WHOSE ARE YOU?

- Identity is proven by obedience, not words
- Titles mean nothing if submission is missing
- Every refusal to obey leaves a mark on someone in the boat

Notes:

CONCLUSION — IDENTITY THAT MATCHES PROFESSION

- The question is not what we claim
- The question is what our lives reveal
- Who are you when others are watching?

Final Reflection / Prayer Notes:
