

III. THE DECISION BY THE MARINERS

A. The sailors decide to throw Jonah overboard, he is swallowed by a big fish and stays in the fish for three days.

- Jonah went down to Joppa (v 3).
- Jonah went down into the ship (vs 3,5).
- Jonah went down into the sea (v 15).
- Jonah went down into the fish (v 17).

Jonah's running from God led him down.

*"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of
The ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits
in the seat of the scornful;"* Psalm 1:1

B. God controls revelation #3:

The purpose of God controlling our circumstances is to produce spiritual maturity.

There are three definitive ways God will grab your attention:

- The Word of God.
- The People of God.
- The Circumstances of God.

*"65 You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD,
according to Your word.*

*66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge, For I believe
Your commandments.*

*67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your
word.*

68 You are good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes."
Psalm 119:65-68

ARE YOU GOING DEEPER WITH GOD THROUGH CONTROL?

GOING DEEPER

How The Book Of Jonah Can Help Us Go Deeper With God Deeper In Our Understanding Of God's Control Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. You have heard it said, you can run, but you can't hide! Let's face it we've all tried to run from God. Jonah was a person who tried to run from God. Through this experience God lovingly responded by helping Jonah to understand His true nature. This understanding resulted in Jonah having a deeper relationship with God.

*"But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving;
I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."*
Jonah 2:9

The book of Jonah is not primarily about a big fish, but rather about a big GOD! There are only forty eight verses in this book. The fish is mentioned three times and God is mentioned forty two times!

B. Unbelief has attacked this book probably more than any other book of the Bible. Jesus validated that Jonah was a real person who experienced a real miracle that represented an Old Testament type of Jesus. (Jonah 1:17; Matthew 12:40-41).

C. Attend Going Deeper and go overboard and into the deep with God by understanding His true nature:

June 5	Deeper In Our Understanding Of God's Discipline
TODAY	Deeper In Our Understanding Of God's Control
June 19	Deeper In Our Understanding Of God's Listening
June 26	Deeper In Our Understanding Of God's Forgiveness
July 3	Deeper In Our Understanding Of God's Care

D. **TEXT:** Jonah 1:5-17

This passage shows Jonah plunging into the water. It helps you to understand how God controls.

HOW TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S CONTROL

I. THE DISTRESS OF THE MARINERS

A. The sailors were stressing and Jonah was sleeping.

Jonah's sin not only impacted his life, but also the lives of those around him.

"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." Jonah 1:5

"For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself." Romans 14:7

B. God controls revelation #1:

You can be deceived into thinking you are in control.

"There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death." Proverbs 16:25

"But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out." Numbers 32:23

II. THE DIALOGUE WITH THE MARINERS

A. The sailors asked Jonah a total of seven questions:

- Why are we experiencing this storm? (vs 6-7)
- Who are you? (four questions) (vs 8-9)
- Why have you done this? (v 10)
- What shall we do with you? (v 11)

Jonah confesses to the sailors that the storm has come because of his disobedience.

"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." Jonah 1:12

"...the way of the unfaithful is hard." Proverbs 13:15b

B. God controls revelation #2:

God is in full control of your life, whether you give Him control or not.

- God controlled the wind.

"But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up." Jonah 1:4

"So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" Matthew 8:27

- God controlled the lots.

"And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah." Jonah 1:7

"The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD." Proverbs 16:33

- God controlled the fish.

"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." Jonah 1:17

"And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking." Luke 5:6

- God controlled everything.

"Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, "We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You." Jonah 1:14

"9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

Isaiah 46:9-10