

# The Impact of Your Decisions

2024-04-15 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Jonah 1:4-16

## FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

### WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

While the storm raged and the sailors threw cargo overboard and prayed to every god they knew, Jonah was asleep below deck. His private decision to run had put an entire crew in danger. Pastor Matt's point: no decision stays personal. Even settling for a mediocre life because somebody once said you were not capable still lands on the people around you. What finally changed things on that boat was ownership. Jonah stood up and said it plainly: this storm is on my account. And by the end of the chapter, the pagan sailors were worshiping the God of Israel.

## To get started

- What decision of someone else's has shaped your life without you ever being consulted?

## Looking back at the message

The story about telling his son that's weird landing three weeks later is the whole thesis in miniature.

- 1 Pastor Matt told his son, do not do that, that is weird, and three weeks later heard the boy describe himself as weird to someone else. When have you watched a small thing you said take root in someone?
- 2 Pastor Matt admitted it is sometimes easier to stay late at the office than to walk in the door and be handed the baby, and the easier choice still lands on everyone at home. Where do you take the easier option?
- 3 Pastor Matt said do not judge, lest you be judged has become the standard deflection whenever a believer's lifestyle gets questioned. Is that a fair use of the verse? OPTIONAL

## Looking at the passage

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Read Jonah 1:4-16. The sailors come off better than the prophet, which is deliberate.

- 4 Read Jonah 1:4-6. While everyone else is in crisis, where is Jonah, and what is he doing?
- 5 Read verses 7-12. What does Jonah finally admit, and what does he tell the sailors to do with him?
- 6 The sailors try to row back to land rather than throw him overboard. What does that effort tell you about these pagan men?
- 7 Read verse 16. Where do the sailors end up spiritually by the end of the scene? OPTIONAL

## Bringing it home

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Ownership is the practical step. Do not let it stay theoretical.

- 8 Who is currently in a storm partly because of a decision you made?
- 9 Settling for less because someone once told you that you were not capable still costs the people around you. Whose words about you have you accepted as final?
- 10 What would taking ownership look like for you this week, specifically?
- 11 Think about the last time someone asked why you were doing something. Did you defend, or did you listen? OPTIONAL

## The group together

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This can turn into confession fast. Keep it safe and do not let anyone pile on.

- 12 Why do we keep calling our decisions private when they never actually are?
- 13 Who has taken ownership toward you the way Jonah finally did? What did it change?
- 14 How could this group ask each other hard questions without it feeling like judgment?

### BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is the one thing you will own out loud this week?

## You might pray about

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- For the courage to admit our part
- For people affected by decisions they did not make
- For humility when someone asks a hard question