

# “What Is Your Name? What Is Your Quest?”

## Jonah 1:7-17

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / July 11, 2021

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**STANDING → SUSCEPTIBLE → SEDUCED → SIN → SHAME → STUPIDITY → STONE**  
(Things are good) → (Not a big deal) → (Rational lies) → (I did it) → (Hide) → (Duh) → (Numb)

### I. You need to prioritize the deepening of your spiritual identity more than anything else.

**Jonah 1:8-9** “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?’ 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.’”

A. Your spiritual identity impacts how you view others.

**Jonah 1:6** “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.’”

B. Your spiritual identity impacts how you view yourself.

**Jonah 1:9** “And he said to them, ‘I am a Hebrew...’”

C. Your spiritual identity impacts how you respond to trials & temptations.

**Jonah 1:10** “...For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.”

Jonah’s spiritual identity isn’t firmly rooted in God’s love for him, or his love for God. Rather, it’s rooted in his nationality, his religious identity, and his continued rebellious run from God.

**Jonah 1:10** “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.”

**Colossians 3:10-11** “...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.”

### Top 3 Ways to Deepen Your Spiritual Identity

1. Make **spending time with God’s people** a priority.

**Colossians 3:12-15** “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

2. View **time in God's Word** as a necessity.

**Colossians 3:16** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

3. **Devote yourself to pleasing God** before anyone or anything else.

**Colossians 3:17, 23-24** "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him...Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

## **II. You need to see the discipline of the Lord as the good sign that it is!**

**Jonah 1:15, 17** "So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging...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."

The first indication that Jonah is truly loved by God is seen in the fact that God disciplines him.

**Hebrews 12:6** "For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives."

## **III. You need to remember the real Jonah points to a "greater Jonah" - Jesus Christ!**

**Jonah 1:15-16** "So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows."

**Hebrews 2:17** "Therefore He had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people."

**Isaiah 53:5** "But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed."

**2 Corinthians 5:21** "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

### **Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. What practices do you have in your life to protect your spiritual identity? What new ones should you employ?
2. While the storm was raging, Jonah was silent. Have you ever avoided asking God for help? Why is that?
3. Jonah's attempt to flee seems foolish. Think back to a situation where you acted in a way that now seems foolish—why did you act the way you did? How can you respond differently to similar situations you face today?
4. Read Hebrews 12:5-11. How have you responded to God's discipline in your life?