



For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

4 Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. 5 All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. 6 The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish." (Jonah 1:4-6)

These verses come from the prophetic story about Jonah, who ran away from God's call for inclusion of love and mercy to the Ninevites. If we compare and contrast this story with Mark 4:35-41, we see some interesting connections. In both stories we read of a violent storm coming upon a boat in the sea. Moreover, we see that the sailors (much like the disciples) are afraid and doing whatever they can to lighten the load to get through the storm.

Interestingly, both stories have a main character (Jonah/Jesus), who is asleep during the storm. In addition, both stories have people questioning the one sleeping about taking a more active role in helping, questioning whether they care about the life-threatening storm. It seems likely that the gospel writers are making this comparative to contrast Jesus' power to calm the sea by speaking to the storm with Jonah being thrown into the sea.

Yet, these two stories (in very different ways) speak of God's compassionate desire to go to the other side and to share his inclusion and love to those who are in the opposing group at the expense of maintaining cultural norms.



REFLECTION:

What is the relationship between following God and finding peace?

PRACTICE:

Spend time this week connecting with someone different than you.