

**DEVOTIONS FOR LENT**  
**MARCH 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Storms**

**Bible Reading**

**Jonah 1** He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up.

**Context**

Theologians reference the storms of life both metaphorically and symbolically. However, they are truly based in the real fear and turbulence of the natural storms like hurricanes or tornados. In this case, God hurled the storm in order to stop Jonah's retreat. If he is unwilling to face the "great" city, he will deal with the "great" storm. The same Hebrew word is applied in both cases.

**Devotion**

We can conclude in this story that sin often results in storms. Wow. Does that mean every time I sin God casts me into a whirlwind? Does that mean every time a storm blows in my life I am guilty of some sin?

Yes, we can conclude that sin will send us into troubles, cheat your neighbor and you will lose trust. Act violently, and expect violence to follow, as one once said "Live by the sword, die by the sword." However, the reverse is not true, every storm cannot be traced to sin. The blind man did nothing to deserve to be blind as Jesus so aptly points out. Storms blow through our lives for various reasons, not all of them are deserved.

The good news is that God can use the storms for good; we are refined by fire. We can make meaning and purpose from those events.

**Reflection Questions**

Do you think Jonah understood the storm to be sent by God at this point in the story?  
What storm in your life made you stronger?

**Prayer**

Merciful Lord, open our eyes to see our sin and guide us to strengthen our faith through the storms of life. In Jesus name. Amen.