

Are You Living In A Belly Of A Whale
(we all have from time to time)

The story of Jonah and the Whale, is one of the best known stories in the Old Testament. It is about God speaking to Jonah and commanding him to go to the evil city of Ninevah and preach repentance. Jonah did not agree with this order from God for Nineveh was known for its wickedness. Jonah, being known as a stubborn fellow, did just the opposite of what he was told. He booked a passage on a ship to Tarshish, heading directly away from Nineveh. In response to his actions, God sent a violent storm which nearly destroyed the ship. Afraid of God, the sailors threw Jonah overboard. Instead of drowning, he was swallowed by a whale. He lived in this giant fish for three days. After asking for forgiveness, the whale spat him out and he was on his way to Nineveh to announce that they would be destroyed. The Ninevites repented and God did not destroy them. Just as the Bible tells us Jonah ran away from the Lord, how many times have we disagreed with God and ran the other way? Just like Jonah, sometimes we think we know better than God. Is there some area of your life in which you are defying God, and rationalizing it? Remember that God wants you to be open and honest with him. Yet, sometimes this is easier said than done. It is our human nature to want to do things our way and/or that we know what is best for ourselves. *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.* Isaiah 55:8 There are many times when God pursues us and we find a way to lower the volume of His voice. We do that when we don't like what we are hearing or when God is trying to move us in a different direction than we have planned. If He's moving us where we want to go, of course we are all too happy to listen to Him. Lesson to be learned: It's always wise to obey the One who loves you the most. – Sherrie Clutts DRE

We must stop just putting band aids on the wounds of society. We must tell the world that we are all God's people. God loves us and we are created to serve God and others.