

How to Destroy Your Life
Answer: Ignore your entitlement

Mission Statement: To take as many people to Heaven as we can before we die. Period.

Entitlement: the belief that one is inherently deserving of privileges or special treatment.

Entitlement is the belief that I am exempt from responsibility and I am owed special treatment. (Dr. John Townsend, The Entitlement Cure)

Questions to Root Out Entitlement

Are you ignoring authority and responsibility?

...the LORD came to Jonah...“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship...he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. **Jonah 1:1-3 NIV**

Are your actions sinking someone else?

Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. **Jonah 1:4 NIV**

Are others stressed over consequences you are causing? (no self-awareness)

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...and fell into a deep sleep.

Jonah 1:5 NIV

Is your behavior creating resentment in those around you?

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 1:6 NIV**

Are you keeping up appearances while your situation is getting worse?

[sailors said] “let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” ...the lot fell on Jonah...they asked “...who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from?” ...He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” This terrified them...“What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) 11 The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?” **Jonah 1:7-11 NLT**

The Answer

1. Take full responsibility for your actions.

“Pick me up and throw me into the sea..and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.” **Jonah 1:12 NIV**

2. Recognize you are putting people in a tough position: they may have to throw you overboard.

Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before...Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man's life...they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. **Jonah 1:13-15 NIV**

3. Admit that someone is having to carry you.

Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. **Jonah 1:17 NIV**

Next week: Fixing What's Broken in Your Life Quicker Than You Think

Message Notes: The Holy Bible, New International Version. The Entitlement Cure, by Dr. John Townsend.