

Following Jesus
Here's Your Sign
Matthew 12:38-42

I. Message (3 signs concerning the identity of Jesus)

a. **The sign of resurrection**

- i. "40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."
- ii. The OT account
 1. Jonah was told by God to go and preach that Nineveh repent
 2. He refused, and instead got in a ship headed for Tarshish
 3. God sends a storm, Jonah admits his guilt, thrown overboard
 4. God rescues Jonah sending a great fish or whale to swallow him
 - a. The point Jesus is making is that this looked like the end for old Jonah
 - b. He was finished (like everyone you throw into a stormy sea)
 - c. But God had different plans
 - d. They thought the same thing of Jesus when He died
 5. The experience in the fish can be summed up with **Jonah 2:1,10**
"Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly... And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land."
- iii. What can we learn about Jesus from Jonah?
 1. That He is God!
 2. Only the God-man could predict His own voluntary crucifixion and voluntary resurrection and the exact timing of that resurrection
 - a. He talked about it all throughout the last year of ministry
 - b. Starting in Caesarea Philippi, north of Galilee:**
 - c. **Matthew 16:21**
 - d. **Matthew 17:22-**
 - e. **Matthew 20:17-**
 - f. Peter preaching in Acts 10:39-40 "And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40 **Him God raised up the third day**, and shewed him openly;"
 - g. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"
 3. The point Jesus is making: There is only one conclusion to Jesus' precise and accurate prediction of His own death and resurrection: **He is the God-man!**

4. Do you believe this?
 - a. Remember Thomas? **John 20:27-29**
 - b. What was Jesus saying to Thomas?
 - c. **Others have believed and will believe in Jesus with far less information that you have**
 - d. **Will you believe the sign of the resurrection?**
 - i. **Jesus knew that some would**
 - ii. **But most would not**

b. The “sign” of repentance

- i. **“41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.”**
- ii. Not really a sign that something is coming, but one that you missed
- iii. The OT account: **Jonah 3:5-8**
 1. Jonah preached and the people responded with repentance
 - a. By the way, it was not much of a message
 - b. **Jonah 3:4 “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.”**
 - i. But they **responded**
 - ii. Many have...and many will
 - iii. In Nineveh’s case, you have an unprepared, selfish, disobedient, foolish, rebellious, and wicked prophet preaching to a bunch of pagan Gentiles in an idolatrous city
 2. **Jesus is so much greater than Jonah**
 - a. Jonah was possibly the worst of all prophets, Jesus was unquestionably the best!
 - b. And here is the great irony for religious people:
 - i. Nineveh was a wicked Gentile city that God personally called out for their sin!
 - ii. And yet Jesus was condemning the self-righteous, overly religious Jews
 1. **Jesus: “Others have repented of their sins with far less information that you have”**
 2. **Will you repent (forsake your sin)?**

c. The “sign” of respect

- i. **“42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.”**
- ii. Another sign that you missed (are missing) something obvious
- iii. The OT account: **1 Kings 10:1-10**

1. Her respect for Solomon was so great, it took her breath away!
2. V.5 – “...there was no more spirit in her.”
 - a. What is interesting is how **the testimony of Solomon’s subjects** affected her
 - b. “8 Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.”
 - c. Have you experienced the change that Jesus brings to other people?
 - d. And yet, you still hesitate to believe?
 - e. The Queen of Sheba recognized God’s wisdom through a man and the happy people around him
- iv. Jesus is so much greater than Solomon
 1. His kingdom is so much greater than Solomons!
 2. **Will you respect His wisdom?**
 3. **Will you sacrifice anything for His truth?**

II. Conclusions

- a. **Do you believe Jesus is God because of the resurrection?**
 - i. Did you realize this is pre-requisite for salvation?
 - ii. **Romans 10:9-10**
 - iii. Have you responded to Jesus with BELIEF?
- b. **Are you quick to respond to truth with personal repentance?**
 - i. Repentance is not just for unbelievers
 - ii. **It is the attitude of the healthy church!**
 - iii. Ephesus was a GREAT church
 - iv. But they needed to repent – **Revelation 2:1-5**
 1. A healthy church continually sees its errors
 2. It continually realizes its love-priorities get out of whack
 3. And responds quickly with repentance!
 4. Are you responding to Jesus with repentance?
- c. **How diligently are you seeking Truth?**
 - i. The queen of Sheba came “from the uttermost parts of the earth” to seek the wisdom of Solomon
 - ii. People around the world, right now, are sacrificing everything to follow Jesus
 - iii. And yet we seldom put in any effort at all
 1. **Jeremiah 29:11-14**
 2. How diligently are you SEEKING?
 3. **Repent (like Nineveh), and believe (3 days), seek (queen)!**
 4. This sums up the right response to Jesus: **repent, believe, seek**