



APRIL 12, 2020

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Jonah, Jesus, and You **Matthew 12:38-42**

I. The Skeptic (vv. 38-39a)

- A. Should have _____ better (v. 38a) [Isa. 7:14; Gen. 12:3; 17:19; Num. 24:17; Gen. 49:10; 2 Sam. 7:12-13; Jer. 31:15; Hos. 11:1; Psalms 8:2; Isaiah 40:3-5; 53:3; Isaiah 9:1-2; Psalm 78:2; 110:4]
- B. Sarcastically _____ Jesus (v. 38b) [Matt. 12:22-27; 4:3-7]
- C. Seek a _____ (vv. 38c-39a) [Lk. 7:22; Hos. 9:1]

II. The Sign of Jonah (vv. 39b-40)

- A. The _____ of Jonah (vv. 39b-40a) [Jonah 1:17; 2:7-10; 3:5, 10; 3:7-9]
- B. The _____ of Jonah explained (v. 40b) [Jn. 2:19-21; 1 Cor. 15:3-4]

III. The Savior's Proclamation (vv. 41-42)

- A. Something greater than _____ is here (v. 41) [2 Sam. 7:13; Jn. 1:29; Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 34:8]
- B. Something greater than _____ is here (v. 42) [1 Kings 10:1-13]

TAKE HOME

- Have you ever ***asked*** God for a sign? If so, do you see how this may be something that Jesus would condemn instead of encourage?
- What was the ***sign*** of Jonah? What lessons should we learn from Jonah and from how the Ninevites responded to Jonah's message?
- How is the Savior ***similar*** to and yet infinitely greater than Jonah and Solomon? What could the Jews have learned from the Ninevites and from the Queen of Sheba?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placertachurch.com.

1. Read Matthew 12:38. Why should the scribes and Pharisees have known better? What miracles had already been performed? (Lk. 7:22)

2. Read Matthew 12:22-27. What does this tell you about what the scribes and Pharisees really thought about Jesus? Read Matthew 4:3-7. How does the ploy of the devil and that requested by the Jews in this passage sound the same?

3. Read Matthew 12:39-40. Review the story of Jonah. What are the main lessons that stick out to you? Share a similar experience you may have had with any part of the story of Jonah.

4. Explain the sign of Jonah in your own words. Read John 2:19-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. Was Jesus in the earth for three days and three nights? Explain your answer.

5. Read Matthew 12:41. What are some comparisons and contrasts between the Ninevites and the Jews of Jesus’ day?

6. Read Matthew 12:42. What are some comparisons and contrasts between the Queen of the South and the Jews of Jesus’ day? Why is it so embarrassing that the Ninevites and the Queen of the South could rise up and condemn this generation at the judgment?

7. Read the take home questions. Which one challenges you or encourages you the most? Why? How will you live your life differently based on what you have learned from this passage?

“They flatter themselves that they only require a little more proof to become decided Christians. They fancy that if their reason and intellect could only be met with some additional arguments, they would at once give up all for Christ’s sake, take the cross, and follow Him. But in the mean time, they wait.

Alas! for their blindness.

They will not see that there is [an] abundance of evidence on every side of them. The truth is that they do not want to be convinced.”

- J. C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on John*