

09.26.2021
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

The Book of Jonah – *Running from Mercy*
No. 4 – The Sign of Jonah
Matthew 12:38-41

Review

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and call out against it because of their evil (1:1)

Jonah refused and fled instead to Tarshish away from God's presence (1:3)

God pursued Jonah by sending a great wind upon the sea (1:4a)

Jonah was hurled into the sea (1:15)

God rescued Jonah by a fish that swallowed him (1:17a)

God spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah on dry land (2:10)

Many focus on the significance of the great fish...

Even Jesus refers to the great fish...

No. 4 – The Sign of Jonah

Matthew 12:38-41

The Request – The religious leaders ask Jesus for a *sign* (12:38)

“Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him...”

“Teacher, we wish to see a *sign* from you.”

What is a sign?

= something that confirms or underscores the authenticity of a claim (See, Acts 2:22)

What is behind their request?

How does Jesus respond?

The Refusal – Jesus tells them that they'll only be given the sign of Jonah (12:39-40)

“An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign...”

“...no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah”

What is the sign of Jonah?

“For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (v. 40)

Luke 11:30 “For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh...”

“...for they (the men of Nineveh) repented at the preaching of Jonah...” (v. 41)

Jesus affirms the reality of Jonah:

-- By referring to Jonah, Jesus demonstrates the reality of Jonah as a prophet who was in the fish's belly three days and three nights, and his ministry in Nineveh along with its results

-- By referring to Jonah to these individuals, Jesus demonstrates that they knew about Jonah, and accepted his reality and significance

What is Jesus' point?

The Result – Jesus tells them what will happen to them because of their response to Jesus (12:41)

“The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it...”

For they repented at the preaching of Jonah

And behold something greater than Jonah is here

Taking God at His word, not...

Responding to it with repentance, not...

the men of Nineveh

Jonah

this generation

something greater