

*The  
Sign Of  
Jonah*

*Matthew 12:38-41*

## **Matthew 12:38-41**

**38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.**

**39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:**

**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.**

**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.**

# Introduction



# Introduction

## Luke 16:27-31

**27** Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

**28** For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

**29** Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

**30** And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

**31** And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

# **Introduction**

**What Will It Take To Convince You To Believe In Christ?**

**John 14:11**

**Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.**

# **I. Who Wanted A Sign? (v 38-39)**

**A. Not the ones doing right**

**1 Thessalonians 5:6**

**Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.**

# **I. Who Wanted A Sign? (v 38-39)**

## **B. The ones doing wrong (v 39)**

### **1. Evil people**

#### **2 Thessalonians 3:2**

**And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith.**

### **2. Unfaithful people**

#### **Mark 8:38**

**Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.**

# **I. Who Wanted A Sign? (v 38-39)**

## **C. Why do they want a sign?**

- 1. So they can see how much they can get away with**
- 2. So they wait until the last minute to stop**

### **Matthew 24:43**

**But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.**



## **II. The Sign Given Them (vv 39-40)**

### **A. One who was rebellious**

#### **Jonah 1:2-3**

**2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.**

**3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.**

## **II. The Sign Given Them (vv 39-40)**

### **B. One who experienced God's mercy**

#### **1. He recognized his rebellion**

**Jonah 1:12**

**And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.**

#### **2. He realized God's judgment**

**Jonah 1:15**

**So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.**

## **II. The Sign Given Them (vv 39-40)**

**B. One who experienced God's mercy - continued**

**3. He realized God's mercy**

**Jonah 1:17**

**Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.**

**4. He repented of his rebellion**

**Jonah 2:1-2**

**1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,**

**2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.**

## **II. The Sign Given Them (vv 39-40)**

**B. One who experienced God's mercy - continued**

**5. He was reconciled to God**

**Jonah 2:10**

**And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out  
Jonah upon the dry land.**

## **II. The Sign Given Them (vv 39-40)**

**B. One who experienced God's mercy - continued**

**6. He was renewed by God**

**Jonah 3:1-2**

**1 And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,**

**2 Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.**

**3 So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.**

# **III. The Salvation Resulting From Jonah's Preaching (v 41)**

## **A. The Ninevites' confession**

### **Jonah 3:10**

**And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.**

## **B. The Ninevites' future condemnation of those present (v 41)**

**1. For rejecting God's Word**

**2. For rejecting God's Son**

**Do Not Reject The Message Of  
Christ's Resurrection!!**

**Luke 24:11**

**And their words seemed to them as idle  
tales, and they believed them not.**