

The Greatest Sin

Matthew 12:38-42

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you."

³⁹ But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ 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. 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. ⁴² The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here."

The Setting

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you."

What were they 'answering'?

Why seek a sign now – after all the miracles they had seen already?

What's the difference between a 'sign' and a 'miracle'?

³⁹ But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."

Why does Jesus refuse them?

What does his indictment of them mean? ("An evil an adulterous generation ...")

What is "the sign of the prophet Jonah"?

The Sign of Jonah

Jonah did not _____ a sign. Jonah _____ the sign!

Thru _____ means (3 days in the belly of the 'great fish'), God – in great mercy – ensures the delivery of a message of hope via _____ thru a flawed prophet to an evil people.

Jonah's "resurrected" _____ was the _____ that he was God's prophet.

And now Jesus – a far _____ prophet than Jonah – is here, and a self-righteous people _____ to repent.

And even when _____ of Jesus takes place – His _____ – they will still reject Him.

(The _____ is _____ for our faith.)

The Queen of Sheba

She traveled hundreds of miles to sit at the feet of Solomon – the wisest of men – and now Jesus – a far _____ king than Solomon – is here, and they spurn him and his words.

And every generation that had or will have _____ will stand in judgment against the generations that had or will have the _____.

Conclusion:

How could Jesus be amid so many and be recognized by so few?

What does that tell us about living in an evil generation?