BURN OUR HEARTS · STUDY GUIDE

Give Me A Sign

On the sermon **"Give Me A Sign"** by **Pastor Philip Anthony Mitchell**, 2819 Church · February 18, 2024 · Matthew 12:38-45

MATTHEW 12:38-45 (ESV)

(v. 38 in your Bible) [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. *(vv. 41-45 in your Bible)*

MAIN IDEA

"The only sign you need is the sign of Jonah."

MAJOR POINTS in the order preached

1. **The demand.** (v. 38) *"They're not really asking for a sign. They're asking Him, 'Prove to us Your identity.'"*
2. **The diagnosis: wicked and adulterous.** (v. 39a)
   - **a** **Wicked.** *"It is evil to try to force God to perform just for you to believe."*
   - **b** **Adulterous.** *"It is your love affair with everything other than Me that is blocking you from seeing who I am without My miracles."*
   - **c** **What if He doesn't?** *"Can you believe in who He is based on His character?"*
3. **The sign of Jonah.** (vv. 39b-40)
   - **a** **Jonah ran.** *"Faith with conditions is no faith at all."*
   - **b** **God kept him.** *"He won't even let Jonah's mistake ruin what He called him to do."*
   - **c** **Jesus rose.** *"The sign of Jonah is the resurrection of Christ."*
4. **Something greater is here.** (vv. 41-42) *"They were on the doorstep of the kingdom and they still could not believe."*
5. **The empty house.** (vv. 43-45) *"Being moral is not enough."*

KEY INSIGHTS our observations, not from the sermon

- **Jesus names His own sign.** Not a trick on demand but His death, burial, and resurrection (v. 40; Matthew 16:4; John 2:19).
- **Something greater.** Jesus says "something greater than Jonah is here" and "something greater than Solomon is here" (vv. 41-42). He is the greater Prophet and the wiser King.

DIGGING DEEPER the sign of Jonah in the big story of Scripture

- **Promise.** After the fall, God promised a Seed who would crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15). "On the third day he will raise us up" (Hosea 6:2).
- **Picture.** "The LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah" (Jonah 1:17), and three days later "it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land" (Jonah 2:10).
- **Fulfillment.** "Christ died for our sins … he was buried … he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
- **Proof.** God "has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:31), and "God shows his love for us" at the cross (Romans 5:8).
- **New creation.** The empty house is filled: the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus "dwells in you" (Romans 8:11), and Christ is "the firstfruits" of all who will rise (1 Corinthians 15:20).

DISCUSS

1. Pastor Mitchell says the Pharisees wanted proof of Jesus' identity, not another sign. Why wasn't everything they had already seen enough?
2. Finish the sentence honestly: "I'll trust God fully when …" What does your answer reveal about what you love?
3. Read Jonah 1–3. Where has God refused to let your mistakes cancel what He called you to do?
4. Why is moral reform without Christ a house left "empty, swept, and put in order" (v. 44)? What fills it?

THIS WEEK

Write down one prayer God has not answered the way you wanted. Beside it write Acts 17:31. Then choose one way to obey Him this week, whether or not the circumstance changes.

PRAYER

Father, forgive us for demanding that You perform before we will trust You. You already proved Your love, Your faithfulness, and Your power by raising Jesus from the dead. Let the empty tomb be enough for us. Do not leave our hearts swept and empty; fill us with Your Spirit. Make us faithful in comfort and in discomfort. In Jesus' name, amen.

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