

7. Jesus – The Greater Jonah

Summer MNM 2014: Christ Prefigured in the OT
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NOTES:

I. Introduction

A. *Prophets, their Message, and the Function of Signs*

1. **Definition:** A sign refers to a supernatural display of God's power, a _____, a wonder.
2. **Purpose:** The purpose of a sign is to _____ and authenticate a divine messenger proclaiming a divine _____. (Exodus 4; Judges 6)
3. Signs are not full-proof. The accompanying message must align and _____ with God's previous revelation of Himself. The real matter of importance is not the sign but the message (Deut. 13).
4. Signs can function both positively or _____ (Deut. 28:45-52).

B. *The Desire for a Sign (Matt. 12:38-41; 16:1-4; Luke 11:29-30)*

1. **Context:** Jesus had just healed a blind mute man. Instead of recognizing the significance of this act, the Pharisees had ascribed the miracle to Satan.
2. **The Request:** The religious leaders have assumed a posture of unbelief, even more, of _____. The religious leaders were abusing the purpose of signs. They were persisting in an attitude of doubt in the face of overwhelming _____.
3. **Jesus' response:** The sign is somewhat cryptic and thus Jesus' words are both merciful and condemning.
 - a) **Merciful:** The strangeness of such a sign might mercifully cause some of the religious leaders to _____ the story of Jonah leading them to repentance.
 - b) **Condemning:** The strangeness of such a sign might cause the religious leaders to _____ Jesus' words sealing their fate.
4. **Questions for tonight**
 - a) What is the correspondence between Jonah and Jesus?
 - b) How does the story of Jonah constitute a sign for the religious leaders in the gospels?
 - c) What can we take home from all this?

II. The Story of Jonah

A. **Cycle 1:** _____, _____, & _____

1. **Background:** God commands Jonah to go to Nineveh and cry against it. Jonah flees in the other direction.
2. _____: God sends an incredible storm, the perfect storm. The story makes it explicit that the storm is a consequence of God's displeasure against Jonah.
3. _____: The sailors cry out to their gods. When they become aware of the God of creation, they call upon Him.
4. _____: The sea stopped its raging.

B. **Cycle 2:** _____, _____, & _____

1. _____: Jonah is still in hot water! He is still experiencing God's judgment. Imagine the terror of being swallowed alive.
2. _____: Jonah prayed from the stomach of the fish.
3. _____: Jonah is vomited onto dry land.

C. **Cycle 3:** _____, _____, & _____

1. _____: Jonah obeys God's word and goes to Nineveh and proclaims a word of judgment. God intends to destroy Nineveh.
2. _____: The people immediately respond to Jonah's message. So complete is their repentance that Jews, still today, read the book of Jonah on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, as a reminder of God's willingness to forgive those who repent.
3. _____: God relented from the calamity he had decided to bring against the Ninevites.

D. **Cycle 4:** _____, _____, & _____

1. _____: The fourth cycle begins with the understanding that God had shown mercy to the Ninevites.
2. **Prayer:** So Jonah prays. Jonah is angry at God's mercy and deliverance of the Ninevites.
3. _____: Jonah is rebuked for failing to understand God's heart and God's ways. The book ends with a choice. Jonah, are you going to choose your own sense of justice or God's sense of justice? Are you going to be occupied with your miserable self or with the desperate need of 120,000 people? Are you going to resist God's purposes or humbly submit to them?

III. Correspondence between Jonah and Jesus

A. *Both Jonah and Jesus experience God's _____.*

1. Jesus understood there to be a correlation between Jonah's experience in the belly of the fish and his own future experience of being buried in the heart of the earth.
 - a) They are both there as the _____ of God's wrath.
 - b) They both experienced a _____ from God's presence. Jonah cried, "I have been expelled from your sight." Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me."
2. Note the contrasts:
 - a) Jonah is there because of _____.
 - b) Jesus will end up there because of _____.
3. **Matt. 8:23-27:** Just as Jonah's self-sacrifice appeased God's wrath displayed in the violent storm and brought salvation to the sailors so Jesus self-sacrifice appeased God's wrath and brought salvation to the whole world.

B. *Jonah and Jesus are miraculously _____ 3 days later.*

1. **Three days and nights:** For most westerners, this correspondence poses a serious problem. Three days and three nights need not be taken as a literal 72 hour period but could be understood more _____ to refer to a complete period of time.
2. The sign of Jonah not only points to Jesus' sacrificial death in which he calmed the storm of God's anger, it points to his _____, his deliverance from the heart of the earth.

C. *Jonah and Jesus are commissioned by God to preach and thus their hearers are held _____ for their response to their message.*

1. Both Jonah and Jesus are sent by God to call people to _____ (Jonah 3:2; Matthew 4:17).
2. **Escalation:** If people responded to a _____ prophet like Jonah, how much more should we respond to the ultimate _____ prophet, Jesus Christ.
 - a) **Ninevites:** Repentance led to _____
 - b) **This generation:** Unbelief will lead to _____

IV. The Sign of Jonah and the Religious Leaders

A. **Call to** _____

1. What is the sign of Jonah? The sign of Jonah is a call to repentance from a man who is authenticated by being _____ from the _____.
2. **Charles Eerdman:** “One who will not believe in Christ in view of His resurrection is self-condemned; his condition is hopeless, his unbelief is _____” (146).

B. **Threat of impending** _____

1. **Desmond Alexander:** “Just as Jonah’s mission led to the deliverance of Gentiles and the _____ of Israel, so will Jesus’ mission.”

V. Significance and Application

A. **Jesus is the greater Jonah who has satisfied God’s wrath by offering himself up to death for the sake of others.**

1. The story of Jonah illustrates for us the doctrine of _____. Jesus experienced God’s wrath, the wrath we deserved, so that we could have _____ with God.

B. **The resurrection is the ultimate _____ that Jesus was sent by God and that his words must be heeded.**

C. **God’s agenda has a way of interfering with our lives and expectations.**

1. This is demonstrated _____ in the Ninevites.
2. This is demonstrated _____ in the Pharisees and Scribes. Jesus did not meet their expectations and he certainly was not going to interfere with their lives.

D. **God resists the _____ but gives grace to the _____.**

1. The book of Jonah has an important message: God shows great _____ and _____ to those who humble themselves and repent of their sins.
2. On the other hand, God _____ and finally judges those who _____ refuse to submit to Him and his ways.