

# Seeing Someone Greater

June 2, 2019



**Open:** How can you tell whether or not someone is believable?

**Read:** Matthew 12:38-42

**Discuss:**

1. What do you know about the attitude of the Scribes and Pharisees toward Jesus? Given the description in Matthew 12:22-24, why do you think they wanted a sign from Jesus (v. 38)? How did Jesus respond to the request of the Scribes and Pharisees? Why?
2. According to verse 40, what is the sign of Jonah? What are some key similarities between the experiences of Jonah and Jesus? What are some key differences? If the sign of Jesus was his death, burial and resurrection, how should this shape our emphasis when sharing the Gospel?
3. What does verse 41 remind us Jonah did after his experience in the fish? How did the Ninevites respond? Why would it be fair for the Ninevites to condemn "this generation" (v. 41)?
4. **Read 1 Kings 10:1-10.** Why did the Queen of the South go to meet Solomon? How did she respond to Solomon's wisdom? So why, according to Jesus in Matthew 12:42, will she also be justified in condemning Jesus' generation?
5. Jesus is making the point that at the final judgment Gentiles will be condemning the Jews of Christ's generation as the Gentiles have shown a better spiritual response. Throughout the book of Jonah how have we seen Gentiles demonstrate a better spiritual response than Jews?
6. What have Jesus' words in this passage taught us about evangelism and what we should expect when we share the Gospel? How have you found the topic of Jesus' resurrection to be a help or hindrance when sharing the Gospel? In light of our current culture, how should we talk about Jesus' resurrection in a way that is helpful to evangelism?

**Apply:** How does the truth of Jesus' resurrection encourage you and shape your life?

**Pray:** Pray that God will give us boldness to go and make Jesus known and that God will work throughout our community so that many will have a right response to Jesus' resurrection.

## **Matthew 12:38-42**

<sup>38</sup> Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> 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. <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> 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." (ESV)

## **Matthew 12:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. <sup>23</sup> And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" <sup>24</sup> But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons." (ESV)