

MBC - 2/10/2019 - Pastor Doug Thompson
 Jonah: A Story of God's Relentless Grace
 "The Greatest Revival in History"
 Jonah 3

(Begin with prayer)

Intro: Was Jonah really broken?

Jesus compared Himself to Jonah in Matt.12:40—

- Matthew 12:40 (ESV) ⁴⁰For 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.

But that's where any comparison's end. In the story of Jonah, he is a complete contrast to Jesus—

- Jonah was running from God's will - Jesus came to do His Father's will. Jonah *felt* like he was dying when he was thrown into the sea. But Jesus didn't have a near-death experience, He actually died.
- And Jonah was unwillingly thrown into the sea because of His own sin. Jesus had no sin, but He willingly went to the cross and gave up His own life for our sins. The Just for the unjust - 1 Pet.3:18.

And jumping ahead to ch.4 - after Jonah grudgingly obeyed God and preached, and the Ninevites responded with repentance, Jonah was furious. But Jesus came that sinners might have life and might have it abundantly. Jesus said that the angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner is saved. And this was His response to people responding to the Gospel in—

- Luke 10:21 ²¹In that same hour *He rejoiced exceedingly in the Holy Spirit* and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

We can learn a lot about Jesus in the book of Jonah, but it's all by way of contrast. And I want to take just a minute to talk about a question that has been bothering me since last Sunday—
Was Jonah really broken?

He was miserable. He was physically and mentally broken. And in his prayer in ch.2 he said a lot of good things about God, but he seems to credit himself for his rescue—

- v.2: "I called out to the Lord out of *my* distress . . . I cried and You heard *my* voice.
- v.7: "I remembered the Lord . . . *my* prayer came to You.

And is there a hint of blaming God?

V.3: "For You cast me into the deep. . . all *Your* waves and *Your* billows passed over me."

Jonah was acknowledging God's sovereignty, but it was Jonah's sin that had brought all of this on him. Look at—

- v.5: “I am driven away from Your sight . . .”

Now wait a minute, Jonah - you are the one who was running away from God. He takes no blame for what he has done. There is no confession of sin - none. He really seems full of self-pity. He speaks of worshiping God again, but leaves out any repentance of his sins. And we say it often, that repentance is turning *from sin to God*. It's like Jonah skipped that whole part and jumps right to God rescuing Him.

And let me show you something that is revealing—

Jonah begins his prayer in v.2—“I called out to the Lord. . . “ which is a quote from Ps.120:1 - but Jonah changed the order of the words: in the Hebrew, Yahweh's name comes first: “*To Yahweh in my distress, I called.*” Jonah moves Yahweh to the end of the verse and puts his calling on the Lord first.

And he does the same thing at the end of his prayer in v.9: “Salvation belongs to the Lord.” He's quoting from Ps.3:8 which says in the Hebrew, “*To Yahweh belongs salvation.*”

- Jonah's prayer seems to reflect what is in his heart: Jonah is first, God is last.

I mentioned last week that even what he says in v.8 seems self-righteous: “Those (evil pagan people) who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.” Jonah, those pagan sailors prayed, worshiped Yahweh and offered sacrifices. You didn't do any of that.

So Jonah's brokenness is pretty superficial. It's more like *remorse*. He was sorry for where his sin landed him - He knew that God is merciful and powerful, so he cried out to be rescued. But he never confessed his sin. He really never even said “Thank You.” If you want to see what true repentance looks and sounds like, read David's confession Ps. 51, or Daniel confessing the sins of his people in Daniel 10.

Sorry to start off this message by bashing Jonah, but he's not the hero in this story, our merciful, compassionate God is. Jonah is just a sinner who needs God's mercy - that's what makes him like - who? Us!

- And just one more observation: 2:10: “Jonah 2:10 “And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out.” There are plenty of other Heb. words that could have been used here - but vomiting is always used of something shameful and disgusting - like Jesus telling the Laodicean church that if they didn't repent He would vomit them out. So maybe we get a clue into how God felt about Jonah's response to His mercy at this point.

So as we read ch.3, and we see Jonah finally carrying out God's command, realize that his heart really hasn't changed at all. Let's look at it (back up one verse)—

- Jon 2:10 And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.
- Jonah 3 ¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. ⁶The word reached the

king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.” ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

* * *

There are two great promises of God that loom behind this story of Jonah and the story of the entire Bible—

- The promise of certain *judgment* for those who never repent and believe God.
- The promise of certain *mercy* and *forgiveness* for those who repent and believe God.

Jonah really liked the first promise - about God’s judgment on his enemies. He was down with the gloom and doom message. But God was determined to show Him that the promise of mercy was just as true for him and his enemies, whether he liked it or not.

I. The message - judgment.

A. A new perspective on ministry.

- Jon 2:10 And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.
- Jon 3:1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the *second* time,

Think about Jonah, sitting on the beach, rubbing his eyes and watching that big fish swim away. His skin is pruny and peeling, his hair is probably gone, along with his clothes. He smells like an old tuna sandwich . . .

And he *should* have been overwhelmed with God’s kindness toward him! He had been running away from God, in utter defiance, he could have and should died. And here he is, alive, right back where he started, and not only that, God re-commissioned him to preach! How gracious is that? Has God ever given you a second chance? Or third, or fourth? He has certainly done that for me.

*God was offering Jonah a whole new perspective on ministry: Jonah *should* have been thinking to himself: “If God spared my life when I deserved to die, then I should live like a man who has been brought back from the dead to serve my God!” That’s exactly the perspective on life that every child of God should have

- 2 Corinthians 5:15 ¹⁵and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

You *should* be dead and in hell, but you’re *not*. You belong to the One who rescued you, so that you might love and serve Him. From time to time it’s not a bad thing to imagine yourself sitting on a beach like whale barf - and remember how God spared you from eternal judgment, and raised you to newness of life to live for Him.

So God repeats His original commission to Jonah—

- Jon 3:2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you."

"*Can you hear me now?*" Same words: "Arise! Go! Call out!" Now realize that this creature didn't deliver Jonah to Nineveh! He still had a journey of weeks to get there. You would think that as he makes this long trek, he would be going over in his mind the lesson God wanted him to learn: "*God showed me such undeserved mercy in saving me, shouldn't those wicked Ninevites have the same opportunity?*" But there's no indication that was in his heart. It just says—

- Jon 3:3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth.

Nineveh was a huge city at that time, with over a half million people in a city surrounded by walls 100 feet high and so wide that 3 chariots could run side by side on top of them. The "3 days journey" probably refers to the distance around the entire city.

So he is facing the prospect of entering this massive city whose people were very sophisticated for the time in culture, and in technology, but absolutely godless and cruel.

And God sends one man! Jonah had no missions agency behind him, no financial support, his picture wasn't hanging on the missionary wall in any church. *No one was praying for Jonah.* And remember, he was small man - he was a *minor* prophet. But God tells us in His Word, "*Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, by many or by few!*" So one man is enough if God sends him.

B. The source of the message - God's Word.

- Jon 3:4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

Jonah started into the city - this pruny-skinned, pale, Hebrew - and apparently walked for a day without saying anything. The whole city must have been talking about this man - then suddenly he cries out, "*Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!*"

Five words in the Hebrew. Short sermon. 40 days to live. 40 days until their great city was leveled - the word for "overthrown" is the same Hebrew word used for what God did to Sodom and Gomorrah. Not exactly the Good News! It was unappealing and offensive. But notice that Jonah finally did something right - he preached exactly what God told him to preach —

- It was the Word of God coming from this prophet's mouth, that shook that city to the core. Do you believe that God's Word can do that? Even such a hard word as the message God to Jonah?
- Here's something fascinating: *there is no mention anywhere* that Jonah even told them the whale story! I mean that was a supernatural miracle of God, and he didn't even pull it out as an illustration. If that happened to a Christian today, they would have an instant book contract and you would see them on the 700 Club that night.

But Jonah simply proclaimed those 5 Hebrew words, but they were the words *God* gave Him. Nothing else! No powerpoint presentation. No rock band warm up to the sermon. Brothers and sisters, let me preach!—

Nothing else was needed! The Word of God created the heavens and the earth. The Word of God created the church, and if you are a Christian, it made you a new creation in Christ. God spoke through His prophet Jeremiah—

- Jer.23:29: “Is not My Word like *fire*, declares the Lord, and like a *hammer* that breaks the rock in pieces?”

Nothing can resist or thwart the power of God’s Word. No human heart is so cold that God’s Word can’t melt it, or so hard that His Word can’t shatter it. It’s like a *heat-seeking missile* that goes to the heart of a man or a woman, piercing, and penetrating. Exposing guilt and then revealing Jesus as Savior and Lord. And it is powerful to save!

So many churches and pastors have lost confidence in the power of God’s Word, and substituted the wisdom of man, or entertainment, or political action - for the wisdom of God. Some of you have heard of Andy Stanley, a mega-church preacher in Georgia - Charles Stanley’s son. He typifies what is called the “*attractional*” approach to ministry: Instead of preaching the Word, you put the Bible on the backburner (because honestly, it’s embarrassing), and instead, you *attract* unbelievers with entertainment and motivational, how-to messages, because - get this - they don’t believe the Bible! He said this in an interview—

- “. . . half our population does not view the Bible as authoritative. If you’re trying to reach people with an undergraduate degree or greater, over half your target audience will not be moved by “*the Bible says*,” “*the Bible teaches*,” or “*God’s Word is clear*”. . . *those* are ineffective approaches for post-Christian people.”

It wasn’t ineffective for Jonah! And not one of the people he preached to believed the Word of Yahweh to be authoritative - until it was preached to them! Faith comes by - what? Hearing the Word of God! Stanley goes on with this illustration. Listen carefully—

- “Appealing to post-Christian people on the basis of the authority of Scripture has essentially the same effect as a Muslim Imam appealing to you on the basis of the authority of the Quran. . . The Quran doesn’t carry any weight with you. You don’t view the Quran as authoritative.”

What’s wrong with his analogy? *The Quran doesn’t have authority, but the Word of God does!* It is the living and active, life-creating Word of the living God, whether a person believes it or not. And the preacher has one commission from God, and Paul gave it to Timothy in—

- 2Ti 4:2-4 ***preach the word***; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. (And this is what happens to the congregation whose pastor departs from God’s Word:) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

Can I tell you: Jesus’ sheep don’t do that, but goats do. And preachers like Andy Stanley who have abandoned the preaching of God’s Word are entertaining goats instead of feeding sheep.

- Beloved, never be ashamed of God’s Word. And never be intimidated by the fact that your unbelieving friends don’t believe the Bible! Jonah preached God’s Word to unbelieving idolaters, and you and I need to do the same. It is the very Word they reject that God can use to *overcome* their unbelief and bring them to repentance and faith! The Word of God. We know this: He will use nothing less and He will use nothing else!

B. The content of the message - judgment.

"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

Now let me tell you: Jonah is not in the Bible as an example for your evangelism! He was out of fellowship, resentful, and seriously lacking in people skills when he marched through Nineveh shouting out these 5 words. Yes, it was God's Word. But it's not the Gospel - there is no good news at all in this message. I don't recommend putting up on our sign: "Yet forty days and Middletown will be overthrown!"

The message of judgment is not the *whole* story, but it's *part* of the message that unbelievers need to hear.

From what is recorded in the Gospels, it's all that we know that John the Baptist preached: *"Repent! Flee from the wrath to come!"* And multitudes did repent and were baptized by him. It was what Jesus preached: "Repent and believe the Gospel!"

- The Reformation began with this kind of preaching. When Luther nailed his 95 theses to the Wittenberg door, #32 said, "Those who suppose that on account of their letters of indulgence they are sure of salvation will be eternally damned along with their teachers."

John Knox preached God's judgment with such thunder that Queen "Bloody" Mary trembled at the thought of this man.

The preaching that God used in the Great Awakening from men like Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards was very often a proclamation of God's judgment on sinners. Edward's sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" was preached at Enfield, CT, July 8, 1741. He was a visiting pastor . . . but listen to just one paragraph of what he said to these people on that Sunday morning:

- The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked: his wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire; he is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in his sight; you are ten thousand times more abominable in his eyes, than the most hateful venomous serpent is in ours. You have offended him infinitely more than ever a stubborn rebel did his prince; and yet it is nothing but his hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment. It is to be ascribed to nothing else, that you did not go to hell the last night . . . And there is no other reason to be given, why you have not dropped into hell since you arose in the morning, but that God's hand has held you up. There is no other reason to be given why you have not gone to hell, since you have sat here in the house of God, provoking his pure eyes by your sinful wicked manner of attending his solemn worship. Yea, there is nothing else that is to be given as a reason why you do not this very moment drop down into hell.
- [He concluded] Therefore, let every one that is out of Christ, now awake and fly from the wrath to come. The wrath of Almighty God is now undoubtedly hanging over a great part of this congregation. Let every one fly out of Sodom: "Haste and escape for your lives, look not behind you, escape to the mountain, lest you be consumed."

People were crying out loud, groaning, and holding on to the pews and columns in the church to keep from sliding into hell! Edwards didn't usually preach this way - he often preached about heaven and the glories of Christ and His mercy and grace, but this particular sermon

was about 95% *judgment*. And God used it in a powerful way to save *many* because this kind of preaching drives people to the point of spiritual bankruptcy and despair over their sins. It drives them to Christ for salvation because they have no place left to turn!

- It's not *all* we say, and usually, it's not the first thing we say. We need the Spirit to grant us sensitivity whenever we share God's Word, don't we? But people need to know this. They will never see their need for a Savior until they see that they are lost and headed for hell without Christ.

And who will tell your family and your friends, if you don't? Don't count on Andy Stanley or Joel Osteen. But Jonah did. John the Baptist did. Jesus did: Luk 13:3 "*I tell you. . . unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*"

II. The response - repentance.

- Jon 3:5-9 And the people of Nineveh believed God. (Amazing - the Word of God did that!) They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

This was a supernatural work of God. And as I said, depending on how we interpret the last verse of this book, 120,000 or up to over half a million people turned from their sins, and turned to God as the result of a single sermon.

- As I said, this is the greatest revival in human history; far greater than what happened at Pentecost, or through the preaching of Wesley, or Moody, or Spurgeon, or Billy Graham.
- In the late 1700's George Whitefield preached outdoors, with no amplification to crowds as large as 80,000 people!

But this was an entire city that believed God's Word and repented. When you consider how stubborn and rebellious *one* person can be - think about *Jonah* - think about *yourself*! Then consider 100's of thousands of individual sinners being converted in a day! That's just supernatural, amazing grace. Isn't God good? Jonah was absolutely right about God: "You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster."

And I think that God granted these people a true, saving faith. Let me tell you why—

1.) *They believed God.*

- Jon 3:5 And the people of Nineveh believed God.

And the Heb. word for '*believed*' is the same word used in Gen.15 where it says that Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. This was genuine, saving faith.

These were people who worshiped grotesque, false gods, and knew almost nothing about the true God, and yet they believed when they heard a message of this God's impending judgment, and they believed almost instantaneously! The only explanation is that their belief *in* God was a gift *from* God. My brothers and sisters, no one can believe until God gives them a new heart to believe—

- Ephesians 2:8 ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
- John 6:65 Jesus said: “No one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” Faith is a gift.)

How *else* could pagan Assyrians suddenly believe in the one true God? It's like Rahab, the Canaanite prostitute, *believing*; or the murderer next to Jesus, in his last gasping seconds, *believing*; or Saul, the Christ-hating Christian killer, suddenly - *believing*.

- Or like a skinny red-headed 17 year-old kid from Indiana, suddenly *believing* and embracing Christ, whom he had rejected for his first seventeen years.

Saving faith is the gift of God, and He delights to give it to the *most* unlikely people to display the glory of His sovereign will - amen? And when God grants the gift of faith, it is never separated from repentance, and—

2.) *They repented of their sins.*

They exhibited all the signs of true, humble repentance: the King took off his royal robe, put on coarse sackcloth made of goat hair - like wearing a burlap feed bag, and then he sat in the ashes. This was total humiliation in a very proud and powerful man. This was no act.

And the entire city did this, from the King, right down to even the animals: they all fasted, and wore sackcloth - even the animals. That had to take a lot of effort!

- I would take a certain pleasure in seeing our 3 cats wearing little sackcloth outfits while I put their dish up on top of the refrigerator. “Yet 40 days - miserable cats!”

But this was appropriate behavior for those grieving over their sins. The prophet Joel told Judah, God's covenant people, that they must repent in the same way—

- Joe 2:11-14 . . . For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it? "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him?

You can't *return* to the Lord until you *turn away* from your sins: faith and repentance always come together, and they are both gifts granted by God:

- 2 Timothy 2:25 Paul talks about God “*granting* opponents of the Gospel. . . *repentance* leading to a knowledge of the truth,

Oh, we should pray that God grants repentance to those who don't know Him - to our leaders and judges.

True repentance comes from a heart broken over sin - don't you see that in these passages? There is an emotional reaction of shame and grief. So far in this story, we don't see that in Jonah, but we see it in these Assyrians. That's why I believe this was a true revival. And if there is no mourning over sin, you have to question whether or not God has granted repentance.

- A few years ago a man called me, crying, telling me (again) that he was so sorry for his sins. And this was a pattern for this man, this happened every few weeks. But he said, "Don't worry Pastor, I'm back in the game, rejoicing in Jesus." And I told him, "Not so fast. Don't rush this. Take time to feel the weight of your sins. You need to think about how the consequences of your actions have hurt your family, and this church, and God, deeply." I read him the passage in James: "Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom."

He was very offended my counsel, and that's because his repentance was fake. He went right back to his sins. His wife divorced him, and to this day his family is a disaster.

- Please ask yourself: Do you *ever* take the time to mourn over your sins? So often, even when we confess, it's a hit and run, get back to work deal. It's a good thing - it's a God thing - when sometimes you are so grieved over your sins that it *disrupts your schedule* and brings life to a grinding halt while you cry out to God. Does that ever happen with you?

Jesus said that the people of His kingdom *mourn* over their sins, and they will be blessed, because they will be comforted by the mercy of God. The message was judgment, the response was repentance, and the outcome was mercy.

III. The outcome - mercy.

- Jon 3:10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

They deserved judgment, but God showed them mercy because He is a: "*gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.*" That is His character. It's who He is. Never forget that.

But some of you might be asking: Wasn't Jonah's message that God was *going* to destroy Nineveh? Did God change His mind?

Beloved, God cannot change. God is immutable = unchanging:

- Num.23:19: God is not a man that He should lie, or a son of man that He should repent, has He said and will He not do it, or has He spoken and will it not come to pass?
- Mal.3:6 "For I, the Lord, change not."

The answer is that God ordained Jonah's preaching, Nineveh's repentance, and His mercy - before time began! Remember how we've seen God's hand moving every detail, every creature, every circumstance to accomplish His intended will. So Nineveh's repentance didn't catch God off guard, He is the One who granted them repentance that He might show them mercy.

And this means that the offer of God's mercy was there, implicit, in Jonah's warning. Hugh Martin, a Scottish pastor in the 1700's said this - get what he says: "*All threatenings from God are warnings, and they are uttered that, if possible, they might not be executed.*"

And God is merciful to warn us, and He warns this world constantly: at every death, every disaster; fire, flood, tsunami, or plague - we should hear the words of our Lord Jesus: "I tell you, unless you repent, you will all likewise perish!" And that is mercy: "*all threatenings are warnings, and they are uttered that, if possible, they might not be executed.*"

"Who knows?"

And back to Jonah, those Ninevites must have sensed a note of mercy in his warning, didn't they? Read it again:

- Jon 3:8-9 but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

Picture the King calling an emergency meeting of his cabinet: "Why did God send Jonah to tell us this was going to happen, and give us 40 days, if there wasn't some hope of averting this awful judgment? We need to repent, and cast ourselves at His feet for mercy! We can't change the horrible things we have done, we deserve judgment, but *who knows?* Maybe this God is a God of mercy."

Who knows? We know! Fast forward to Sunday, February 10th 2019, and *we know!* God sent His Son to take the judgment for our sins, and to be our righteousness, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. *We know!*

For all the rumblings and warnings of God's judgment, we have the promise: "*Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved!*"

I'm not just quoting Scripture here, I'm making you an offer: If you are not a Christian this morning; right now, where you sit, will you believe in the Lord Jesus and be saved? Will you?

Don't say to yourself that you need more time or more re evidence because I can tell you two things: **one**, you don't need it; and **two**, you're not going to get it. God has spoken all He is going to speak in His Son, and His Word is enough to save you if you believe. Let me close with what Jesus told some scribes and Pharisees who thought they needed something more to convince them to believe in Him—

- ³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹But 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. ⁴⁰For 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.*

That greater One is Jesus. He is here, and you have heard His Word this morning. And you don't know that you have another 40 days, or even another 40 minutes. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved!"