

# Greater Than Jonah

Man Overboard Series – Part 4

Scripture text – Matthew 12:38-41

## Review

- Jonah was told to go to the city of \_\_\_\_\_, the capitol of the Assyrian empire. The Israelites \_\_\_\_\_ the Assyrians (for good reason).
- Instinctively, Jonah cried out to God to save him from \_\_\_\_\_.
- After 3 days & 3 nights in the belly of a great fish, Jonah was \_\_\_\_\_ onto dry land. He got the message.
- We need to go to Matthew 12 because that's where \_\_\_\_\_ talks about Jonah and his significance.

## Background to Matthew 12

- The religious establishment considered Jesus a \_\_\_\_\_ who was threatening their \_\_\_\_\_.
- The opposition had 2 problems: (a) Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_; and (b) he performed \_\_\_\_\_.
- Their final attempt at discrediting him was to demand a miraculous \_\_\_\_\_, in this case, a truly \_\_\_\_\_ one.

## 4 Propositions

1. Jesus affirms the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jonah.
  - Implication: Because Jesus did, we can & should \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.
  - About alleged inaccuracies:
    - a) Be \_\_\_\_\_; the allegations tend to get \_\_\_\_\_.
    - b) Do your \_\_\_\_\_. In most cases, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ explanation.

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2. Jesus declares himself \_\_\_\_\_ than Jonah.
  - Many Old Testament characters and/or events are intended to point to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Implication: We need to read & understand the Old Testament in this \_\_\_\_\_. We want to connect people to Jesus, not just teach good \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. Jesus upholds the principle that with greater \_\_\_\_\_ comes greater \_\_\_\_\_.
  - At the judgment, God will use the Ninevites to condemn the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' generation.
  - Implication: Of all the nations of the world, \_\_\_\_\_ could well be the nation judged most \_\_\_\_\_.
  - And what of the American \_\_\_\_\_?
  
4. Jesus offers his resurrection as the last & greatest sign that \_\_\_\_\_ his person & work.
  - When a death occurs, a lot \_\_\_\_\_. But with Jesus, the process was halted and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - You can \_\_\_\_\_ it happened; but if you believe it, then you must \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ him.

### Discussion Questions

1. Which proposition was most meaningful to you?
2. Do you believe the resurrection? If so, what does that belief then require of you?

### Explanation: Inerrancy

- Inerrancy is one of the four key attributes of the Bible, along with inspiration, authority and sufficiency. Some add a fifth key attribute: clarity.
- The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact. In other words, the Bible always tells the truth concerning everything it talks about.
- Problems with denying inerrancy:
  1. If inerrancy is denied, we begin to wonder if we can really trust God in anything he says.
  2. If inerrancy is denied, we essentially make our own human minds a higher standard of truth than God's Word itself.
  3. If inerrancy is denied, then we must also say that the Bible is wrong, not only in minor details, but in some of its doctrines as well.
- At First Baptist Harlan, we affirm the inerrancy of Scripture.