# Lesson 1 Jonah

1. (Faith and Hope) In response to the scribes and Pharisees request for a sign, Jesus tells them. “No sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.” This sign is usually interpreted in reference to verse 40. However, if you read Jonah 2:1-7 and 3:1-3, there is a much more powerful sign that Jesus will give.

Matthew 12:38-41

38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.”

39 He said to them in reply, “An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign,   
 but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.

40 Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights,   
 so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.

41 At the judgment, the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it,   
 because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and there is something greater than Jonah here.

Jonah 2:1-7

1 But the LORD sent a great fish to swallow Jonah,   
 and he remained in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2 Jonah prayed to the LORD, his God, from the belly of the fish:

3 Out of my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me;   
 from the womb of Sheol I cried for help, and you heard my voice.

4 You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the sea, and the flood enveloped me;   
 All your breakers and your billows passed over me.

5 Then I said, “I am banished from your sight! How will I again look upon your holy temple?”

6 The waters surged around me up to my neck; the deep enveloped me; seaweed wrapped around my head.

7 I went down to the roots of the mountains; to the land whose bars closed behind me forever,   
 but you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD, my God

A. What does Jonah 2:3, 5-7 say about Jonah’s actual condition?

B What does the last half of Jonah 2:7 tell us is the “sign of Jonah” and how is it a sign of Jesus at the end of the three days and three nights in the tomb? Note that the same word in Latin is used for Jonah’s action in Jonah 3:1-3 and Jesus in Matthew 28:5-6.

Jonah 3:1-3

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time:

2 Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you.

3 So Jonah set out [L. surrexit] for Nineveh, in accord with the word of the LORD.

Matthew 28:5-6

5 Then the angel said to the women in reply, “Do not be afraid!   
 I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.

6 He is not here, for he has been raised [L. surrexit] just as he said.

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…Jesus' Resurrection "on the third day" was the sign of this, also because bodily decay was held to begin on the fourth day after death. (References include Jonah 2:1)

1. (Love) Jesus spoke favorably of the repentance of the Ninevites at the preaching of Jonah,   
   reluctant though it was.   
   What does this tell us about who God wants to save and our responsibility before God to take His Gospel where he sends us? (See CCC74)

Matthew 12:41

41 At the judgment, the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and there is something greater than Jonah here.

Jonah 3:1-3

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: 2 Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you. 3 So Jonah set out for Nineveh, in accord with the word of the LORD

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God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth": that is, of Christ Jesus. Christ must be proclaimed to all nations and individuals, so that this revelation may reach to the ends of the earth:

God graciously arranged that the things he had once revealed for the salvation of all peoples should remain in their entirety, throughout the ages, and be transmitted to all generations.