

Message Notes

Greater than Jonah

Matthew 12:38-50

Gospel of Matthew, part 44

June 12, 2005

Lord Jesus Christ

*I understand now that I am more sinful than I ever before believed,
but more loved by you than I ever dared hope.*

*I understand that you lived the life that I should be living and
you died the death that I deserve.*

*I desperately need the salvation and new life that you
accomplished through your perfect life and death on the cross.*

Today, I humble myself before you.

*I repent of my sin and my self-reliance and place my complete trust in
Your finished work on the cross. I accept you as my Savior from sin.*

I make you Lord of my life, my sovereign authority.

Give me a new direction in life.

Give me a new attraction for You, your truth and your ways.

Make me a part of your family.

Amen.

grace
San Luis Obispo

Message Outline

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A saving relationship with Jesus Christ gives us. . . .

I. A New UNDERSTANDING

1. The Pharisees understood the Bible as a book of rules they must and could keep to earn God's salvation and blessing.
2. Those who trust Jesus understand the Bible as a book all about salvation by grace through Jesus, why we need Him, who He is, what He did, how He saves, and what that means.

II. A New DISPOSITION & DIRECTION

1. The Pharisees refused to repent when they met Jesus and his numerous signs and miracles. They refused to turn from sin and self to Jesus.
2. Those who trust Jesus are driven to repentance, they see themselves as more sinful than they ever before imagined, but more loved than they ever dared hope. In brokenness, they turn from themselves and their sin toward Jesus.

III. A New ATTRACTION

1. The Pharisees believed they themselves were wise and they could not see the wisdom of God in the person and work of Jesus. They were repulsed by Him instead of attracted to Him.
2. Those who trust Jesus become like the Queen of the South. They are willing to do anything and go anywhere for the chance to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn from Him, the greater Solomon.

IV. A New AUTHORITY

1. The Pharisees refused to bow to the authority of Jesus. They were obsessed with right moral living, but insisted on leading self-directed lives.
2. Those who trust Jesus bow to the Sovereign Lordship of Jesus, who in time, brings transformation from the inside out.

V. A New FAMILY

1. The Pharisees thought they were in the family of God because of their pedigree and their obedience, but they were really out of the family because of their refusal to repent and trust Jesus.
2. Those who trust Jesus "do" the will of God the Father, and therefore come into an entirely new family relationship with Jesus. Ongoing obedience is the "fruit" of that "family connection" with Jesus.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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What's Up with Growth Groups?

Growth Groups are one of the best ways to jump into life at Grace! After a great Spring, we are looking forward to Fall Growth Groups, but taking a break this summer. We believe that Growth Groups are the best way to make a large and growing church feel like a small church. Our goal is to have 25 Growth Groups this Fall. Be planning ahead and making room in your schedule for a Growth Group this Fall. For more information see the Growth Groups brochure or contact Pastor Steve at steveL@graceslo.org.

1. Read Matthew 12:38-50 again. Why is the question of the Pharisees so odd in light of Jesus' action in 12:22? Why didn't Jesus just give them what they wanted? Did Jesus ever do a miracle to satisfy Himself or justify Himself?
2. Jesus makes two "greater than" claims in this text. Where are they? He makes another "greater than" claim earlier in the chapter. Do you remember where? Find it.
3. What does Jesus' reference to Jonah tell us about the historicity of the story? What was the sign of Jonah to the Ninevites? How will Jesus be a "sign of Jonah" for this generation and the world?
4. Read I Kings 10:1-10 which is the story of the Queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon. Jesus indirectly says something amazing about this gentile queen. What is it? Is there any evidence for this in 1 Kings 10?
5. The Pharisees thought they were "in" with God, but Jesus shows they are "out." How does He do this? Who does He show is surprisingly "in" with God?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our message/text this week? What was new?
2. How are those in our culture like the Pharisees who wanted a sign? How do we want signs and proof as a science oriented culture? Does Christianity give us proof or present to us a person? Is Christianity a leap of blind faith or reasoned faith?
3. In this text, we noted 5 NEW things that happen in and to us when we trust Jesus Christ. Which of these is most dear to you? Which of the five are you most likely to lose sight of?
4. Flesh out what it means to be a part of the family of God. How does one become a part of that family? What is the fruit of being a part of that family?