

Matthew 12:38-50

June 23, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro –

Philippians 3:8 - Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of *knowing Christ* Jesus my Lord. For His sake I've discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain *Christ*.

v.38

In Matthew 8-12, Jesus:

- **heals a man with leprosy... heals a centurion's servant who was paralyzed... calms a storm on the Sea of Galilee... heals two demon possessed men... heals a paralytic on a stretcher... heals a woman with a bleeding issue... raises a dead girl to life... restores the sight of a blind man... causes a mute man to speak... gives His apostles power to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and drive out demons... Jesus heals a man with a withered hand and heals a blind, mute, demon-possessed man**

Ravi Zacharias: “A man rejects God neither because of intellectual demands, nor because of the scarcity of evidence. A man rejects God because of a moral resistance that refuses to admit his need for God.”

Romans 1:19-20 - What may be known about God is *plain* to them, because God has made it *plain* to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been *clearly seen*.

Blaise Pascal: "In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't."

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v.39

Jesus doesn't say: *"I've given you enough evidence. No more signs."*

He doesn't say: *"Okay. I'll keep jumping through hoops for you."*

Jesus says, *"I'll give you one more sign--the most important one."*

v.40

What miracle was Jesus talking about?

- **His resurrection!**
- *"The Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights"*
- **Usually when you bury someone they stay there for more than three days...**

Did you ever wonder why God gave Jonah the experience that He did?

- *Why swallowed by a fish? Why three days and three nights?*

God gave Jonah the experience that He did to point to Him.

In the same way, God gives you the experiences that you have to point to Him.

v.41

You remember the story of Jonah...

- **God told Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach to the people**
- **Jonah didn't want to, so he got on a boat going in the opposite direction**
- **Through a series of events Jonah was thrown overboard and swallowed by a great fish.**

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- **When he arrived in Nineveh, his message was eight words long: "40 more days and Nineveh will be overthrown."**
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v.42

2 Peter 1:3 - His divine power has given us *everything we need* for life and godliness.

v.43-44

Revelation 3:20 - "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in."

The man in this story:

- **through his own efforts cleaned up his life**
- **but he left his life empty**
- **he didn't invite Christ in**

The goal of Christianity isn't to help people clean up their lives.

v.45

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When you read the gospels you'll notice that harlots, thieves, criminals and outcasts came to Christ--but the Pharisees didn't...

- **The sinful person is aware of their sinfulness**
- **The moral person doesn't have that awareness**

But, the Pharisees needed what you need and I need and everyone needs.

- **Not more miracles.**
- **Not to live a moral life**
- **But to become a member of God's family**

v.46

Mark 3:21 - When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of Him, for they said, "He's out of His mind."

v.47-50

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that *whoever* believes in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 6 - Then they asked Him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to *believe* in the One He has sent... For My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and *believes* in Him shall have eternal life."

Galatians 3:26 - You are all children of God through *faith* in Christ Jesus.