

1-18-2026 Sunday Sermon Message

Meditation of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16

Text: Matthew 12:38-41

Title: Have you repented and believed in the gospel and received forgiveness of your sins?

When Jesus heard that the scribes and Pharisees wanted to see a sign, he said:

"But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

⁴⁰ For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

⁴¹ The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here." (Matthew 12:39-41)

The Bible testifies about Jonah as follows:

"Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly,
² And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

³ For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me." (John 2:1-3)

Jonah's body, which had been in the belly of the fish for three days, was already dead, and his soul cried out in hell and prayed:

"Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

⁵ The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

⁶ I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God.

⁷ When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple." (John 2:4-7)

Jonah said that his body died and his soul was tortured to hell, but God saved his body from corruption.

King David said that the body of Christ, who would appear in the future, would be in the tomb for three days, but God would not allow his body to be corrupted:

"Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰ For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." (Psalm 16:9-10)

Jesus said that when He died for three days, He would go down to Hell like Jonah:

"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:40)

Before His death, Jesus spoke to the world after John the Baptist was imprisoned:

"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:14-15)

Jesus said that we must repent before believing the gospel. Even after His resurrection, when He spoke to His disciples, He said that only by repenting can we receive the forgiveness of our sins:

"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things." (Luke 24:46-48)

The Bible testifies of what happened when Jonah, who repented and rose from the dead, went to Nineveh to preach the message of repentance:

"So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

6 For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:

8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.

9 Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?" (Jon 3:4-9)

Jesus saw the wickedness and unrepentance in his time and he said firmly to them:

"The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here." (Matthew 12:41)

We must understand and know how God is speaking to the churches of this age and repent before God. The apostle Paul prophesied that in the last days the churches would be as sinful as the people of Nineveh of old:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholly,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

**5 Having a form of godliness, but denying
the power thereof: from such turn
away.”(2 Timothy 3:1-5)**

Amen! Hallelujah!