

“The Judgment in Missed **Opportunities**”

Matthew 12:38-42

Scripture reading: Matthew 12:38-42 “Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. ³⁹ 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. ⁴² The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here.”

Message Title: “The Judgment in Missed **Opportunities**”

1. The Malicious **Request** (vs 38)

Matthew 12:22-23 “Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. ²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?”

Matthew 16:1 “The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.”

1 Corinthians 1:22 “For the Jews require a **sign**, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:”

2. The Condemning **Answer** (vs 39-40)

Psalms 73:27 “For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.”

Hosea 9:1 “Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as *other* people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor.”

Jeremiah 5:7 “How shall I pardon thee for this? thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by *them that are* no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses.”

Jonah 1:17 “Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

3. The Illustrative **Judgment** (vs 41-42)

Jonah 3:4-6 “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.”

Jonah 3:10 “And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.”

4. Our Opportunistic **Application**

- a. Have We Seized the Opportunity to be **Saved**?
- b. Have We Seized the Opportunity to Spiritually **Grow**?
- c. Have We Seized the Opportunity to **Minister** to Others?
- d. Have We Seized the Opportunity to be **Used** by God?
- e. Have we Seized the Opportunity to **Love** and be **Loved**?