



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2015

THE STINKING FISH

A Study in the life of a fish-master from Galilee

Guests, like fish, begin to smell after three days.

Benjamin Franklin

A City Called “Nineveh”

The House of the Fish or Fish within the House

Nineveh

The Capital city of the Ancient Assyrian Empire. Termed by the prophet Nahum to be the “*Blood City*” - and it was also said to be “*The City of Three Day’s Journey*”. A city located on the eastern shores of the mighty Tigris river. And a city, whose very name indicates the idea of “*a Fish in control of the House*”.

The Ninevites

Controlled by the lusts of the flesh. Ishtar, the goddess of war and sensual indulgence, is the object of their worship.

The Greatest Revival Recorded in the Entire Bible

A minimum of a 120,000 wicked men and women repented in the House of the Fish

How Did this Happen?

How is it that men and women without even a desire for God would turn with such radical abandon towards Him?

The Bible Simply Says that They Were Given “A Sign”

But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, **but the sign of the prophet Jonah . . .** For as Jonah

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. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a greater than Jonah is here.

Matthew 12:39-41

Strangely, the Sign was a Man

. . . **As Jonah was a sign** unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.

Luke 11:29-30

And as Jonah was a Sign to Nineveh, So Jesus is a Sign

What was “the Sign of Jonah” unto the Ninevites?

The Sign of Jonah

The Messengers Run Throughout the City Yelling:

That Great Fish that controls us doesn't control Him. The Great Fish is subservient to this man! The Great Fish is at the command of this man's God! The Great Fish is under this man's God's feet, for this man's God has proven in and through this prophet's restoration back to life from the Great Fish's belly that He is indeed Master of the Great Fish!

Now Let's Take A Closer Look at Where “This Sign” Comes From

- Gath-Hepher - the winepress on the hill (a town of Lower Galilee, a few miles from Nazareth)

Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, **which was of Gath-hepher.**

2 Kings 14:25

- Galilee - the opening of the door, the opening of the flow

The Sign of the Heavenly Man

His great pronouncement

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believes on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified) . . . They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee?

Search, and look: for out of Galilee arises no prophet. And every man went unto his own house.

John 7:37-39; 52-53

Sineveh

The House of Sin, Sin is in the House

The Messengers of the Law run throughout this City of Destruction and yell:

You are all under Sin's control. Its wage is certain death. Your rebellion against God has issued the Flesh legal right within your bodies to rule over your appetites, so that you cannot do as you want to do. Darkness is your eternal destiny. The grave yawns with eager expectation to devour you and savor your soul forever.

The Sign of Jonah

Part One - *The Death of the Man*

But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken . . . Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous. And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you . . . So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

Jonah 1:4, 11-12, 15

The Sign of Jesus

Part One - *The Death of the Man*

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 3:16-17

The Sign of Jonah

Part Two - *The Burial of the Man*

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.

Jonah 1:17

The Sign of Jesus

Part Two - *The Burial of the Man*

And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Matthew 27:59-60

Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as you can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

Matthew 27:61-66

The Sign of Jonah

Part Three - *The Resurrection of the Man*

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 heard my voice. 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 . . . 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 . . . But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. **Salvation (Yěshuw`ah) is of the LORD (Yěhovah).** And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Jonah 2:2-3, 6, 9-10

The Sign of Jesus

Part Three - *The Resurrection of the Man*

He is not here, but is risen: remember how He spake unto you when He was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words.

Luke 24:6-8

And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen; He is not here: behold the place where they laid Him.

Mark 16:6

He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Matthew 28:6

The Good News in the Streets of Sineveh

The Messengers of the Resurrection run throughout this City of Destruction and yell:

One greater than the power of Sin has come. Come and see! Look where He once lay for Three Days! The Grave sits here stunned, unable to speak, and with gaping wonder it stares in awe at its defeat. For it proved unable to hold Him down. He has made a public spectacle of all the powers of darkness, for Death, our great enemy, has been defeated by Him. And the Sin and Flesh that ruled this house, no longer has legal right to master our lives.

Come, See The Great Fish Stinking on the Shore of the Tigris

Come, See the Place Where the Lord Lay

I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction . . .

Hosea 13:14

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:55-58

The Sign of the Man

He Will Prove to Master That Which Masters Everyone Else

(Jesus) declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead . . .

Romans 1:4

The Fish-Master From Galilee

Calling the Son of Jonah with the Sign of Jonah

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come

and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;

Luke 5:1-9

And they straightway left their nets, and followed Him.

Matthew 4:20

The Lineage of the Church

- The Power of the Flesh (Sin in the House)
- The Great Flesh-Revering Citizens (The people living in darkness have seen a great light)
- Amittai, the Father of Jonah (The Truth - Jesus)
- Jonah, the son of Amittai (The Dove - the Holy Spirit)
- Simon, the son of Jonah (The Receptive)
- Peter, the, uh, son of Jonah (The Rock-like)
- You and Me, those who strangely relate to this bizarre story (The Receptive being made Rock-like - the Church of Jesus Christ)

Come, See the Stinking Fish!

Come, See the Place Where the Lord Lay

So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, and the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

John 20:4-8