



8 WORD SERMON

³⁸ Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you.”

³⁹ He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.

Matthew 12:38-41 - NIV

This Easter Sunday as we celebrate the breaking of the ultimate lockdown of death, we ask for courage to come into your hearts and homes at this time. And as Jonah emerged from his lockdown with an 8 word sermon that changed Nineveh we are trusting for our own 8 word sermons to change our lives, our loves, our cities and societies.

5 things we learn from Jonah

- **Cry** - Jonah’s heart’s cry was to one day see God’s temple. We are on our knees crying out for the Saviour, to break in and to help us.
- **Confinement** - Confinement is used to free Jonah from his self preoccupation. Let’s trust that we too would be broken out of our own confinement of self preoccupation.
- **Cost analysis** - The only way we can keep sacrificing, counting and giving to God, His work and His church, is by thinking of the Holy Temple and by thinking of the sacrifice of Christ.
- **Clinging** to worthless idols - You have to let go of one thing before you can lay hold of another, sometimes that means letting go of the good before we can lay hold up the best.
- **Courage** - We are trusting that you would find the courage for your own eight words in this time, to do what God has called you to do.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

John 20:19 - NIV

What took Jonah 8 words after his confinement took Jesus only 4 after His. In 4 words Jesus gave us everything we need to know to get through our own confinement. “Peace be with you!”

Questions

1. What did you see that you’ve never seen before through the cry, the confinement, the cost analysis, the clinging and the courage of Jonah?
2. What is your 8 word sermon or 4 word sermon?
3. Tell us what those words mean to you at this time?