

Here's Your Sign; Matthew 16:1-4

I. Jeff Foxworthy

- A. Comedy routine, "Here's your sign"
- B. Jesus had fed 5000, then 4000
- C. Jesus had healed many
- D. Jesus had raised the dead
- E. Mark 4-6 detail some great miracles by Jesus (He calms a storm, casts out demons, heals a woman, and brings back to life a dead child)
- F. The Pharisees and Sadducees ask for a sign

II. Jonah

- A. As if all the other signs weren't good enough, Jesus says you'll get another sign
- B. Matthew 12:38–41; 38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." 39 But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.
- C. Jonah was a reluctant prophet
 1. Jonah 1:1–3; 1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." 3 But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.
 2. Jonah had no desire to fulfill God's desire for him to preach to Nineveh (a Gentile city)
 3. He endangered an entire boat crew and was even willing to die himself (by jumping overboard during and life and ship killing storm)
 4. Jonah 1:4–6; 4 But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. 6 So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."
- D. But God had a different plan for Jonah
 1. Jonah 1:17; And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.
 2. It was this particular event that helped Jonah to realize that he had a task to perform even though he didn't like it
 3. Some people question this book (even those in the church) based on this event; surely no one could be inside a fish for three days and three nights
 - a) 2 Kings 14:23–25; 23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, began to reign in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. 24 And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. 25 He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the

Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher.

- b) Jonah was a prophet of God... He just didn't like the message he was supposed to deliver this time
- 4. Being in the fish is the very event that Jesus refers to; He will be in the earth just as Jonah was in the fish
- 5. And Just as the could not keep Jonah, the earth could not keep Jesus

III. Jesus

A. The tomb is empty

- 1. Matthew 28:1–7; 1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."
- 2. This is exactly what Jesus said would happen
- 3. Peter quotes from Psalm 16 on the day of Pentecost

B. Psalm 16:1-11

C. Salmos 16:1-11

D. Jesus prophesied His own resurrection!

- 1. Matthew 16:21–23; 21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."
- 2. Matthew 17:22–23; 22 As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.

E. Matthew records 5 times where Jesus told his disciples he would be raised

F. John 2:18–22; 18 So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

G. So Peter, using this knowledge has this to say on the day of Pentecost

H. Acts 2:22–24; 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

IV. Searching for a Sign?

- A. What sign are you looking for?
- B. There are many signs throughout the Gospels by Jesus Himself
- C. The Holy Spirit through the apostles proving their message of a risen savior
- D. Here's your sign!