



# Daily Reflections

**July 18, 2016**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 12:38-42**

Some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Jesus,  
"Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you."

He said to them in reply,

"An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign,  
but no sign will be given it  
except the sign of Jonah the prophet.

Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights,  
so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth  
three days and three nights.

At the judgment, the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation  
and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah;  
and there is something greater than Jonah here.

At the judgment the queen of the south will arise with this generation  
and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth  
to hear the wisdom of Solomon;  
and there is something greater than Solomon here."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

As the old saying goes, "Some people can't see the trees for the forest." Such was the case with the religious leaders and teachers (Scribes and Pharisees). They were caught up in the razzle dazzle of Our Lord's miracles but failed to comprehend what they signified, namely, The Kingdom of God and its call to repent, change and get right with God. How ironic, says Jesus, that their bitterly despised enemies, the pagan Ninevites, reformed immediately when called to do so by the Prophet Jonah. In light of this example, what excuse do the leaders have?

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## **Food for your Journey**

The cross is not a sign of the church's quiet, suffering submission to the powers-that-be, but rather the church's revolutionary participation in the victory of Christ over these powers. The cross is not a symbol for general human suffering and oppression. Rather, the cross is a sign of what happens when one takes God's account of reality more seriously than Caesar's. The cross stands as God's (and our) eternal no to the power of death, as well as God's eternal yes to humanity, God's remarkable determination not to leave us to our own devices.

--Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon, *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* (Abingdon, 2008), 47.

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Open my heart to Your truth. May I reform my life each day and seek Your way above all others. Amen.