

Not Just Another Story:

Jesus Reimagines Jonah & The Queen of Sheba

From songs and novels to movies and TV, there is something unique about the power of stories and their ability to resonate with our hearts in compelling and moving ways. In the gospels, we see many accounts of Jesus telling parables and re-imagining stories to teach, equip and win the hearts of his hearers. And yet, Jesus wasn't a mere teacher or storyteller, but one who communicated, and is himself, the power of God for salvation. Let's examine what makes the stories of Jesus so unique, powerful and life giving to us today.

Ice Breaker Question:

What road sign would best describe your week?

Luke 11:29-32

²⁹ As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. ³⁰ For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation. ³¹ The Queen of the South (1 Kgs. 10:1-13) will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom; and now something greater than Solomon is here. ³² 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 something greater than Jonah is here.

Check out Jonah 1:17 and 2:10.

What stuck out to you? Share some observations from the passage.

What is something about how Jesus told this story that might have challenged the hearer's assumptions?

How are the pagan Ninevites shown to be more sensitive to God than the religious people?

What is something about how Jesus told this story that challenges our assumptions?

How does this story show us the true realities of Jesus' life, the kingdom of God & the gospel?

How is Jesus the better Jonah? Better Solomon? How is resurrection the ultimate sign?

If we have been changed by the gospel, how does today's discussion speak into our daily living?