

Rising Up In The Judgment
Matthew 12:41-42
11-08-20

In Matthew 12:38-42 Jesus condemned the Pharisees for their desires to see signs. Jesus specifically brought out two examples from the Old Testament of those who believed even though no signs were given. Jesus said that in the Day of Judgment, the Queen of Sheba and the people of Nineveh would rise in condemnation of that generation. What would that condemnation be?

In 1 Kings 10:1-10 we read about the Queen of Sheba. It is not certain where Sheba was, perhaps the southern Arabian Peninsula or in Africa. That Queen heard of the wisdom of Solomon, and came with a spirit to resist or test him. But when she tested him, she realized that he was indeed all that she had heard, and she accepted that she was wrong.

In Jonah 3:1-10 we read of the preaching of Jonah in Nineveh. Jonah did not bring a message of repentance, but of condemnation. These were a people who were in enmity with God, and would be destroyed. When they heard this, they all turned in repentance, with only a slight hope that they might be spared. This repentance spared them of that judgment.

Jesus said that on the day of resurrection these people will rise up with us. What will be the accusation of the Queen of Sheba? *"I traveled around the world to know; when I learned I accepted my error. You have knowledge before you, yet you refuse to understand"*. Will that be her statement to you?

What of the people of Nineveh? They will say *"We merely heard we were wrong. No message of repentance or hope was given. We repented in blind hope. But you have a promise of forgiveness and a path to be saved, yet you refuse to change"*.

All of these things are summed up in the parables of the treasure and the pearl. *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."* (Matthew 13:44-46)

As in the parable, some people are lucky enough to find TRUTH or to have TRUTH brought to them. These are the people of Nineveh. Others are those who go looking for it. This is the Queen of Sheba. Whether we seek or we find, we must accept TRUTH when it comes. Otherwise, we will be condemned by those who responded when they found it. Do you seek to know the wisdom of God? Are you prepared to change at all costs?