

# The Gospel According to Luke- Part 4

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## REJECTING THE LORD

## PART 5

*Greater than Solomon*

**READ LUKE 11:29-32**

### INTRODUCTION

*In this passage we can see the heart of Christ desiring to see people see His reasoning for coming to earth. It is sometimes easy to forget that Jesus is the Son of God and it is pretty clear here that He was sensing the people were looking for Him to perform for their interests more than they were interested in His message. His purpose for coming was similar to that of Jonah's going into the belly of the whale. It was through that event that Jonah was able to bring the message of hope to the people of Nineveh and through Jesus' death and resurrection, there would be ultimate hope brought to all nations. This was the sign that Jesus was going to give to the people. He was going to conquer death.*

*The people did not see that as being necessary, let alone possible. There was great pride among the people and they had little interest in being told how to live. They wanted their Messiah to come and take over the government and to rule the nations with an iron fist. They wanted to be avenged for all of the pain and suffering that their people had gone through. It is not very different from today. We feel oppressed at every turn and we want God to intervene in our lives as long as that intervention comes in the form of protecting us and "dealing with" them. This is faulty thinking. We will be persecuted in this world and our reward may not be seen here but in Heaven alone.*

*The signs that the people were seeking were the performance of healing that Jesus had become known for. His wisdom was certainly great but many wanted Him to put on a show for their own desires. Again, it is not dissimilar today. We want God to jump through miracle hoops for us and we say things like, "if only He would do this, then I would believe". This is errant because Jesus' wisdom and love are so important and His miracles would not save us. Someone who is wiser than Solomon was at the Israelites doorstep and they were wanting Him to perform tricks. Jesus wants more for us than a few moments of awe. He wants a complete lifetime of loyal servitude and dedication. As God, He deserves it.*

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

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### *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

1. What are some of the various similarities between the story of Jonah and Jesus? What are some major differences?
2. Have you ever thought that if only God would perform a miracle, you would believe more? Why is this a dangerous line of thinking? How does Jesus show us to live in faith regardless of the miracles?
3. Do you ever struggle with pride? Do you ever want God to do what you say and forget that it is His will that matters? How can we avoid falling into the trap of thinking that God owes us something?
4. How has God shown you that His will is better? Was it easy? What did you learn?
5. What does it mean to dedicate our lives to Christ? Why should we do it?

### *WRAP UP*

One of the big issues that we face is the constant desire to find out, “What’s in it for me?” We have this reward system built into us from the time we are very little and we start only caring about things that bring us joy or happiness. We have to get away from asking that question when it comes to Christ. Yes, there are certainly benefits of following Him but, He is worthy of all praise and honor and glory even without those benefits. He is God and we are not.