

## **Sermon Notes**

Jesus offered the Pharisees the 'sign of Jonah' when they challenged his authority to do and say the things he had been. But why would Jesus compare himself with Jonah? This seems like an odd point of comparison since Jonah could be the worst prophet ever for his reluctance to follow God's commands and his anger at God's gracious response to Nineveh's repentance. But nonetheless Jesus does make this comparison and perhaps we can gain something from making the comparison too. In this week's message we heard about three times in Jesus' life and ministry with more than just surface parallels to something in the book of Jonah. We compared 'two storms' and saw how it points to Jesus divinity, the withering of 'two trees' and how this points to God's love for his enemies, and finally we looked at '3 days' and how the Resurrection of Jesus is the only proof we need to follow him. This is Easter, the sign of Jonah, that God come among us a human being named Jesus, and whilst we were still his enemies he did not forsake us, but in his magnificent love and grace he gave us the greatest sign – he rose from the grave, defeating sin and death and calling us back he reunites us with God forever.

## **Reflection Questions**

How is Jesus similar but greater than Jonah? What do we learn from looking at these stories side by side?

What makes Jesus' resurrection so significant for Christians? What gives you confidence that it is true?