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Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

THE SIGN OF JONAH

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Gospel

While still more people gathered in the crowd, Jesus said to them, "This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah. Just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. At the judgment the queen of the south will rise with the men of this generation and she will condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and there is something greater than Solomon here. At the judgment the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because at the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."

LUKE 11:29-32

Reflection

In this gospel according to Luke, the "sign of Jonah" refers to the need for a

repentance that is preached by a prophet coming to the Ninevites from far away. As Jesus' spiritual authority is challenged, he compares himself to Jonah, whose preaching of God's salvation reformed the lives of the Gentile Ninevites. Jesus also has a message of salvation calling for the reformation of people's lives if they will pay attention to it. At the judgement, all these Gentiles will be recognized as most open to God's invitation.



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For Pondering

- What does being open to salvation mean to you?
 - In what ways has the LORD made known divine salvation to your co-workers, family, and friends?
 - Describe how your life has been "reformed," i.e., made more open to God's will and saving energy?
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For Prayer

*Compassionate God,
Healer of my body,
Healer of my soul,
heal me.
Strengthen my ailing body;
soothe my aching heart.
Make me whole.*

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