

"SOMETHING GREATER THAN SOLOMON HERE"

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, 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

In today's Gospel according to Luke, Jesus has completed his ministry in Galilee and he is on his journey to Jerusalem with his disciples. Jesus is exasperated with the crowd because they are looking for a spectacular miracle to prove Jesus' power. Reminding the crowd of the story of Jonah, Jesus shows how the Ninevites responded to Jonah's preaching and repented of their sins; and yet, the people Jesus is addressing on the road to Jerusalem are not open to his teaching. Jesus then recalls how the Queen of the South traveled far to learn the wisdom of Solomon and yet, this crowd cannot hear Jesus saying that there is *something greater that Jonah and Solomon here*, standing in their presence.

If Jesus, the Wisdom of God Incarnate, stood before us, would we be close-minded to his presence? If there is no openness to God's Word, we miss the opportunity to be converted and to follow Jesus, the One who is greater than the prophet Jonah and King Solomon who loved Holy Wisdom in his reign as king.



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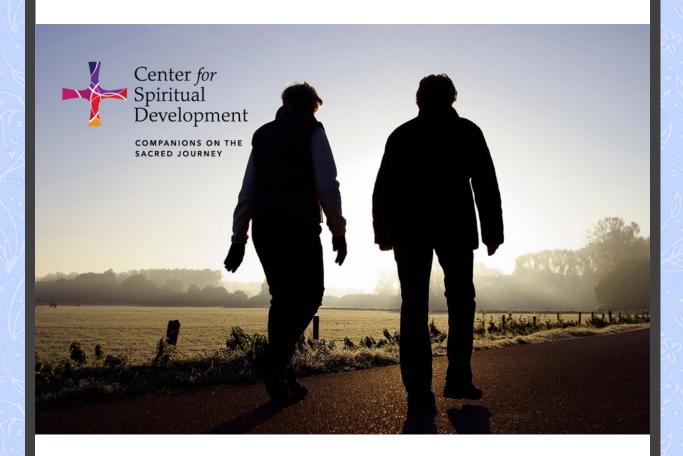
For Pondering

• If we were to imagine being in this Gospel scene, where would we find

- ourselves? Are we disciples following Jesus, walking with him on the road to Jerusalem? What is it like to listen to the demands of the crowd?
- Or are we part of the crowd, asking Jesus to perform a miracle to prove his authority? We want a sign.
- What was it about Jesus' preaching that the crowd couldn't perceive? What were they looking for? Was it Jesus' vision of the nearness of the reign of God? Or was it his manner of always calling people to their best selves?
- We hear Psalm 95 proclaim, "If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts." May it be so!

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