

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ We Would See a Sign

Last 2 times...Jesus cast out a mute demon, a Messianic miracle, and the accusation of the Pharisees that He did so by the power of the devil is declared by Jesus to be

- folly because a kingdom divided cannot stand
- wickedness and unforgivable (if unrepented of)

The Unpardonable Sin...not believing the testimony of Jesus by the Holy Spirit

This time...in spite of Jesus making a show of them openly, triumphing over them in their foolish and wicked reasoning (v24 vs v23), the Jews demand a sign from Jesus to “prove” He is the Messiah as He claims

We will continue in Matt 12

v38 scribes...Pharisees...Master, we would see a sign:

Certain of the scribes (Law-ers) and Pharisees confront Jesus, carefully,
given His immense popularity

The Self-Righteous and Legalistic Task Force answered Jesus’ rebuke to their
folly and wickedness by demanding a sign from Him

They called Jesus “Master”...but He is not their Master,
this is thinly-veiled contempt

A sign is a “wonder”, a “miracle from heaven”, evidence of the power of God
They want a sign so they can believe He is the Messiah

They already have all the miracles done thus far by Jesus

They already have the widow of Nain’s son raised from the dead

They already have the miracle they themselves taught only the Messiah
could do – cast out a mute demon

They already have all of the miracles foretold in Is 35:4-6

- eyes of the blind opened
- ears of the deaf unstopped
- the lame to walk
- the dumb/mute to sing

They have previously asked Him for a sign

John 2:18 (1st cleansing of Temple at beginning of ministry)

Answer: John 2:19-20, (21-22) Resurrection

John 4:46-50

He knew the thoughts and motives of the Jews’ hearts

So...this demand for a sign is really a sign of their unbelief
They cannot deny...must “believe”...all of Jesus’ miracles
But they refuse to believe in Jesus, that He is the Christ,
the Son of the Living God

A sign/miracle confirms faith in the heart that believes
A sign/miracle will not confirm faith in the heart that does not believe

Another sign will have no effect on the unbelief in their hard hearts...
their request of Jesus is insincere

So...in reality the Lawyers and Pharisees are

- (in the immediate)
 - attempting to curb/halt Jesus’ popularity and influence
 - attempting to discredit Him with “Prove who you say you are!”
- (in the longer term, because of His popularity)
 - are convinced He is of the devil and resisting Him is resisting the devil
 - building a case for [Deut 13:1-5](#)

How many still want to see a miracle so they can believe that Jesus is the Christ?
They must first believe that He is if a miracle is to affect their hearts

Heb 11:1 faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen

Heb 11:6 without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him

[Rom 4:17-22](#) he had the Word of God

Rom 10:17

Luke 16:19-31

Seeing is NOT believing...believing is seeing!

Miracles do not produce faith, miracles confirm existing faith

Why are more miracles seen in Honduras, Brazil, etc than in USA?

Perhaps because in those “less sophisticated and educated” nations there is more simple faith...that the Bible is the Word of God and it is true!

Perhaps people in other places believe and then see...

Americans want to see before they believe

The Self-Righteous and Legalistic Task Force demanding a sign from Jesus...
He gives them what they need – the Word of God

v39-41 the sign of the prophet Jonah:

Remember, v24 marked a turning point in the ministry of Jesus Christ

Prior, He taught the people directly

Then, v23 squashed by v24...

by a wicked and adulterous generation

by a degenerate, unfaithful people

(generation = people or time, depending on the context)

Henceforth, He taught in parables...starting immediately (v25-29)

Thus, Jesus' response to this demand for a sign by these degenerate and unfaithful people is the Word of God in the form of three parables

The first is that of the prophet Jonah

In mentioning Jonah as Jesus did in this parable...

- the story of Jonah, deemed preposterous by unbelievers, is validated by Jesus
- Jonah was a historical man, his book is Fact vs Fiction
- the life of Jonah is a parable of the Messiah
 - Jonah is the shadow and Jesus is the Substance
 - Jonah was 3 days/nights in the belly of the whale...
place of death
 - Jesus will be 3 days/nights in the "middle" of the earth...
the grave

A prophesy by the Son of Man (His Messianic Mission)

God loved man

Man sinned against God

Man had to pay

Man could not pay

So God became a Man in order to pay for man because He so loved man

of His Resurrection (His Messianic Mission Accomplished)

A prophesy foretelling the greatest sign of the Messiah (Dan 9:26a) –

His Personal resurrection from the dead...power of God over death

Consider the ministry of Jonah – even a harsh message of judgment from a hateful messenger was used by God to bring revival to millions of lost souls...

So how much greater is the Gospel of Grace from the Messiah!

The believers (repented) of the sign/shadow (Jonah) will judge/condemn the unrepentant unbelievers of the Substance...for One greater than Jonah is "in this spot" (Himself) and Luke 12:48

Now, another parable in answer the demand of the Jews for a sign

v42 queen of the south...Solomon:

The shadow: the queen of Sheba (seeking) and Solomon (son of David)

The Substance: The Son of David, the Messiah...His Kingdom and Throne
will be...forever (2 Sam 7:12-16)

The believing shadow (queen) who came and searched out Solomon and his
wisdom will judge/condemn the unrepentant unbelieving confronting
Jesus because they did not come to search out Jesus, Who is Wisdom...
for One greater than Solomon is “in this spot” and Luke 12:48

Now a 3rd parable in response to a demand for a sign after having cast out a
mute demon

v43-45 a man...worse...this wicked generation:

A parable of an unclean spirit and a man

The unclean spirit is cast out of the man and wanders looking for another body
to possess

Unable to find one, the unclean spirit returns to the man and finds him vacant,
swept, and in order

So, he calls on some demonic “muscle”...the goon squad...and re-occupies the
cleansed man

As a result, the man is worse at the end than he was in the beginning

What does this mean?

Context: The Messiah casting out demons, particularly one only He could
and the lawyers and Pharisees proclaiming He did so by the power
of the devil

The man (Jesus gives the key to understanding His parables) = this wicked
generation, the unbelieving people to whom He was sent

The Messiah has cast out innumerable demons, cleansing and
setting in order this man...Israel

By the Spirit of God, He is stronger than the Strongman (v28-29)
and is preaching the Kingdom of God

Yet the man (led by the scribes, Pharisees) does not invite Him
into their hearts to “fill the spiritual void”

They reject the Spirit of God and the Kingdom of God

They do not believe He is the Messiah...so their end will be worse
than before He came

Those who will testify against the wicked, unbelieving sign-seekers:

- Nineveh
- Queen of Sheba
- John the Baptist
- Moses ([John 5:45-47](#)) to the Jews...scribes and Pharisees

But not Jesus, the Messiah!

- [v31a](#)
- [v32a](#)
- [John 3:17-20](#) to a Pharisee who came searching
- [John 12:44-49](#) with Deut 18:19

The danger of “we would have a sign from You”: an end worse than any other period of time in their history (DoL)

- 1 Cor 1:22
- [Matt 24:15-25](#)
- [2 Thes 2:1-11](#)
- [John 5:43](#)

Needed: a 7year peace treaty with Israel by counterfeit christ
a Temple (Temple Institute)
a High Priest (have selected one, he is waiting for the right time)
The Rapture of the Bride of Christ, the children of God!

v46-49 mother...brethren...disciples:

We need to read our Bibles carefully and to let the Word of God speak for Himself to tell us what He means,
rather than us telling Him and others what He means

Parties present in this scene:

1. Jesus
2. His mother, Mary
3. His brethren
4. His disciples

A parable of Jesus: Who are His mother and His brethren?

v50 whosoever shall do the will of My Father:

The introduction of a 5th Person helps us sort out the identities of all parties

My Father (the key to Jesus' parable) =

- which is in heaven...i.e. NOT Joseph, the husband of Mary
- God the Father (Mark 3:35)
- Maker of heaven and earth
- the High and Lofty One (Is 57:15)
 - that inhabits eternity
 - Whose name is Holy
 - dwells with them of contrite and humble spirits
 - to revive their spirits and hearts

The Identity of Jesus:

- The Son, God the Son, the Son of God
- God...Deity

The identity of "My brethren":

- "brother, sister"
- children of Joseph and Mary
- Matt 13:55 proof the unbelieving didn't understand this parable

The identity of "My mother":

- Mary
- wife of Joseph

The identity of Jesus:

- Seed of the Woman (why non-negotiable truth of virgin birth)
- Son of David (by both Mary and Joseph)
- Son of Man

Jesus Christ is absolutely unique

- 100% God
- 100 % Man
- the Messiah, the Savior of the world

The identity of Jesus' family:

- whosoever shall...whoever chooses, contrary to the teaching of Calvinism
- do the will of God the Father
 - do = love= believe (all actions, all choices)
 - Luke 8:21..."these which hear the Word of God and do it"
 - James 1:22-25

Jesus is NOT disrespecting His mother...He is

- honoring His Father
- declaring His “line”
 - Deity
 - of man...of David

(in keeping with the other parables) for One greater than Mary is here!

Note: Per Jesus, Mary was not a “perpetual virgin”
(idolatrous man-made doctrine)

In this parable, Jesus Christ “redefines “family”...
for those who believe/understand

- from “blood”/biology to “Blood” of NT for remission of sins
- from of the flesh to of the Spirit (John 1:12, John 3:14)
- from corrupt and temporal to holy and eternal
- from the kingdom of man to the Kingdom of God
- from religion/works to relationship/faith

A personal/familial relationship with God our Maker is based on

- The Person, work, and words of Jesus Christ
- faith (Heb 11:1, 6; Heb 12:2; Eph 2:8-9, 2 Cor 5:7)
- NOT signs and wonders and miracles

Jesus Christ changes everything
His gives us a greater citizenship (Phil 3:20)
Next time: The Kingdom Parables

Let’s gather in small groups to pray...in agreement with, in one accord with our Father...
to let the Holy Spirit write these words on our hearts and to transform our lives

Closing Song