

Asking God to further confirm the person and message of Jesus by giving more evidence leaves you guilty before God and those who believed on lesser evidence; this makes you a person full of darkness rather than light, so believe the evidence God has given since it is more than sufficient to see Jesus.

Introduction & Background – Remember the previous account of the demon-possessed man? This passage immediately follows it and portrays Jesus as greater than all. Do you see him?

I. Where to Start Looking for Jesus

A. Don't rely on your proximity to Jesus (v. 27)

By pronouncing blessing on Jesus's mother's womb and nursing breasts, she is figuratively blessing his mother. It is interesting to note that the woman who feels compelled to loudly and publicly bless Jesus' mother (Mary) is echoing blessings from earlier in Luke. Elizabeth had blessed Mary ([Lk 1:42](#)), and Mary responded how all generations will call her blessed because God has honored her to bear his Son Jesus ([Lk 1:48](#)). But is that all there is to say?

B. Hear and Obey God's Word (v. 28)

In his response to the woman, Jesus places a check on her blessing, and also encourages her that she might experience greater blessing herself despite not being his mother. He redirects her toward those who hear and keep God's word. Mary is blessed for the same reason that all disciples are blessed: for hearing and obeying God's word ([Lk 1:38](#); [Jn 2:5](#)). It seems Jesus had to give this kind of correction more than once ([Lk 8:19-21](#)), and we must also redirect singular blessing upon Mary today as blessing for all disciples.

II. What Signs to Look For

A. Don't ask for another sign (v. 29a)

In Luke 11:16, the unbelieving people asked Jesus for a sign from heaven to test him. Here in verse 29, Jesus bluntly calls their request evil. Why? Because he knew signs and wonders won't bear repentance in the hard-hearted, and he rejected these requests motivated by an evil desire to test him (cf. [Matthew 12:38](#); [Mark 8:11](#)). Therefore Jesus won't give this generation a sign except the mysterious “sign of Jonah.” From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus rejected this kind of testing, calling it a Satanic request ([Luke 4:9-12](#)) that would not help them to believe ([Luke 16:31](#); cf. [John 12:9-11](#)). Jesus was about to describe just how wicked their indecision and hesitancy to believe in him really was.

B. Look through the old signs (vv. 31-32)

1. The 10th century B.C. queen of the South was from a country in southwestern Arabia (modern day Yemen; [1 Kings 10:1-3](#); [2 Chronicles 9:1-12](#)). She visited King Solomon, bringing many costly gifts, and asked him many vexing questions to test his legendary wisdom. Awed by his grandeur and wisdom, and his kingdom, she rejoiced in the God of Israel. Jesus says that she will be there on Judgment Day to testify against his generation for its evil unbelief. Of course she would have made even greater efforts to believe in Jesus, the one greater than Solomon. The “something” greater than Solomon that is here refers to Jesus and his wisdom, which is greater than Solomon and his legendary wisdom. Jesus is the ultimate wise man. Hear him!

2. The people of 8th century B.C. Nineveh, capital of Assyria (modern day Iraq), were famous for their cruelty and wickedness. But even they repented at the preaching of Jonah ([John 3:6-10](#)).

Yet Jesus' generation will not repent when confronted with the preaching of Jonah's Lord (Luke 10:12-15)! The men of Nineveh will also rise up on Judgment Day to give damning testimony of his generation. Jesus is not only the ultimate prophet, he is the Lord of the prophets. Obey him!

C. Look to the greatest sign (vv. 29b-30)

The sign of Jonah (John 1:17) probably had a two-fold meaning.

1. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Jonah's three days in the belly of the fish and subsequently released at the command of God are a sign of Jesus rising from the dead on the third day (cf. Matthew 12:40). Jonah sank to the bottom of the sea, was swallowed by the fish, spit out onto land, and proclaimed God's message to Nineveh. He never actually died, although his ordeal certainly should have killed him apart from God miraculously preserving his life. However, Jesus underwent a real death, burial and resurrection. Moreover, Jesus' gospel was better than Jonah's message in every way. The resurrection of Christ was the core of the gospel message preached by the apostles from the outset (Acts 1:22; 2:31; 3:15; 4:33; 5:30-32). Jonah illustrated and foreshadowed Jesus.
2. The need for true repentance. Just as the people of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, this signified the need for Jesus' audience to repent in response to the gospel. So the sign of Jonah is also the call to repent. Putting the two-fold meaning together, the sign of Jonah is the preaching of the risen Jesus. No other sign is necessary to provide sufficient reason to repent and believe because Jesus is the greatest sign God will give.

III. How to Believe What You See

A. Don't hide away or cover over Jesus (v. 33)

Imagine a one-room house with a lamp inside. An uncovered lamp would illuminate the whole house. The lamp is a metaphor for Jesus and his gospel message. Jesus ministered and taught publicly for all the world to see and hear. His ministry wasn't private, hidden, or covered up (John 18:20). He is the "light of the world" (cf. John 8:12; 9:5). But Jesus also calls your eye the lamp of your body. These images are related.

B. Ask God to clear up your spiritual vision (vv. 34-36)

1. The people around Jesus were complaining about insufficient evidence. But Jesus turned the tables, blaming them for their own lack of spiritual sight. The problem is not with the light Jesus gives. The problem is with people's eyes. They cannot see the light because they are full of darkness. The next scene in Luke illustrates what a person looks like who thinks he sees Jesus but is actually full of darkness (Luke 11:37-41).
2. We do not need more light. We need to respond in faith to the sufficient light already given us. What Jesus has done in plain sight should be enough to satisfy. We need good eyes to see Jesus for who he is. When a person has good eyes, his whole body will be *filled* with light. He will shine brightly, unencumbered by the presence of darkness. Ask God for clear spiritual sight.

Conclusion – When you look at Jesus, are you drawn to him with good eyes and compelled to believe and obey? Or are you repelled, because his light is exposing your bad eyes, and you prefer darkness rather than light because sitting on the fence feels safer (John 3:19-20)? Start by hearing and obeying what he says to you in the Bible. Resist the temptation to ask for more signs or more light. In faith, look through the old signs and look to the greatest sign—the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. If you follow these signs you'll find your whole life filling with the light of Jesus. You will be able to see him like never before.