

Sermon Notes



Title: "What Jesus Said When Accused of Being in League with the Devil" Part 3

Text: Matthew 12:38-42

Theme: When people don't believe the proofs God gives them to believe, neither will they believe the proofs they demand from God. The sign of Jonah, which is the resurrection of Christ, is all the proof anyone really needs to know that Jesus is Lord and that the Kingdom of God has come.

I. *The Occasion in Which Jesus Was Charged as an Accomplice of the Devil (22-24)*

II. *Jesus' Reasoned Response to the Accusation (25-32)*

III. *Jesus' Warning that Words Are Just as Culpable as Deeds (33-37)*

IV. **Those Who Demanded a _____ from God
_____ What He Has Already Given Will Not Be
Granted Their Wish (38-42)**

A. The Scribes and Pharisees' _____ (38)

B. Jesus' Answer (39-42)

1. An identification of the _____
(39a)

2. The Sign of _____ (39b-40)

3. People Who Believed Though Not Privileged with
_____ (41-42)

VI. Applications

A. One of the roles of signs in redemptive history was to provide _____ that God had indeed spoken to people.

B. Christians need not _____ for confirmatory signs from God but learn to trust His _____ and learn how to _____ the truth from Scripture to _____ situations in their lives.

C. Christ's death, burial, and resurrection is the _____ of the "sign of Jonah" and is the _____ that what Jesus said and did is _____.

D. One of the things to do in _____ for Christ is to employ the _____ as God's _____ that Jesus is Lord of all.

Next Week Read: Matthew 12:43-45

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. Who made a challenging demand upon Jesus? What was this demand (v. 38)?
2. How did Jesus describe these people who made this demand upon Him (v. 39a)?
3. Did Jesus agree to their demand (v. 39b)?
4. What did Jesus offer to give to them (v. 39b)?
5. Who was Jonah?
6. What aspect of Jonah's experience did Jesus correlate to His own? What would this mean (v. 40)?
7. On the day of judgment, what two groups of people will condemn the generation of Jesus' day (vv. 41-42)?
8. Who was the queen of the South (v. 42; see 1 Kings 10:1-13)?
9. Why will these two groups condemn Jesus' generation (vv. 41-42)?
10. Who or what is the "something greater" than Jonah or Solomon (vv. 41b, 42b)?
11. Besides confirming His Word to prophets and to many who lived in the older covenant administration, what other role do you think signs played in God's redemptive plan?
12. Why did Jesus call His generation "evil and adulterous" for seeking a sign from Him when He performed many signs from God as the LORD's Messiah?
13. Should Christians seek for signs to confirm God's will in their lives today?
14. If God were to provide a sign to prove that His Word was true, what sign would you ask for? Why would you ask for that particular sign?
15. Are there continuing "signs" that God gives to His people today to attest, confirm, and seal to their hearts that what the LORD has promised is sure?
16. How should we think about the signs given to people like Gideon (Judges 6:36-40), Ahaz (Isaiah 7:10-17), or Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:1-11) that confirmed God's word to them?
17. What confirms for you that the message God speaks is true?
18. How did the Apostles and early Christians use the resurrection of Jesus in their proclamation of the Gospel?
19. How does the resurrection serve as "proof" of the Gospel today when the event is far removed from our time?
20. Should you worry about "proving" the resurrection of Christ?