

John # 34 “Here’s Your Sign”

John 2:11-25; Matthew 12:38-42

To call Jesus good showed that they placed human good above salvation and that’s nothing more than religious legalism which is disgusting ‘filthy rags’ to God; so they top it off with ‘We would like see a sign.’

The Pharisees had rejected the miraculous sign at the wedding in Cana which Jesus publicly performed, so He’s going to refer them to the Old Testament miracle of Jonah. *And please don’t miss the obvious: What is written in the Bible is much stronger than a miracle in God’s viewpoint.*

But what could be stronger than what we can see? The Word of God!

Here is a perfect situation for Jesus to show off and perform more miracles to get the Pharisees to trust in Him when they say ‘Show us a sign’ but He has been performing sign miracles for about a year now and He doesn’t yell at them by saying “You fools” instead; He refers them to the strongest possible sign: Old Testament biblical truth concerning Jonah.

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Every Pharisee believed if they performed enough good deeds and were fortunate enough to qualify, they’d go to Sheol in the heart of the earth, known also as Abraham’s bosom or Paradise.

And they knew full well in their minds that if they were not good enough, they’d go to the bad section of Sheol or Hades, known as the place of torments.

And the Lord Jesus is telling these Old Testament scholars that He’ll be spending 3 days and 3 nights in Sheol.

His soul will be there and that’s the priority sign: If He was in Sheol for 3 days and nights and they know when they go to Sheol that they don’t come back but He comes back, so what does that mean? He is resurrected!

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So, here’s your sign and it will be complete with the resurrection of the Assyrians who responded to the grace of God through the offer of His Gospel from the prophet Jonah.

But the Pharisees, steeped in their self-righteous religious human good system have rejected their Messiah Jesus Christ and not only that, they blasphemed the Holy Spirit. *And in typical fashion through God’s illustration of irony, these sad cases will be judged by a group of people more despised than any people who have ever lived; the Assyrians complete*

with their resurrection bodies which resemble perfectly, Israel's Messiah's resurrection body!

Miracles without truth are worthless and deceptive.

But miracles with God's truth behind them display His power and they were used this way in the past to validate Moses as God's prophet.

Satan was in Pharaoh's court that day too and he did his thing to perform miracles through some Egyptian priests.

God didn't perform miracles simply to relieve suffering or pain; His miracles often did that but the main reason God performed miracles in the past was validation so that people would recognize this prophet is from God and he speaks for God, so listen up.

It isn't so much the miracle, it's the message attached to it because miracles do not create a powerful soul inventory of biblical principles to live by and therefore, glorify God.

Religion is man's attempt to please God in the energy of the flesh in self-promotion from self-deception leading to self-absorption.

The Passover celebration which was designed to portray the death of Israel's Messiah has been converted into a Godless religious ceremony.

The Person and work of the Lord Jesus is clearly evident in the articles found in the temple and in the ceremony of temple worship.

Religion always twists the truth with heresy.

The irony is that the very area specified for picturing the Lord Jesus and His work became a place to reject Him!

Jesus knows that the world must be removed from the temple before the temple can reach the world as designed.

The lively spiritual has been replaced by the dead religious.

Religion does not change as today, just like in Jesus' day, religion seeks to gain power and influence by pressuring its followers to conform.

In Christianity, God seeks man who only finds God in Jesus Christ.

In religion, man seeks to gain the attention of God through his own works.

Psalm 16:9-10 "Therefore My heart is glad and My tongue rejoices; My body also will rest secure because You will not abandon Me to the realm of the dead, nor will You let Your faithful one see decay."