



# Danger Of Pursuing Signs Only Without The Word

**"An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas" (Matthew 12:39).**

Bulletin VCMT31

20 November 2019

"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. 39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. 42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here" (Matthew 12:38-42).

Signs and wonders, popularly referred to as miracles attests to divine calling and approval. The ministry of Jesus was full of spectacular miracles, but in this teaching, Jesus pointed out that the pursuit of miracles only at the expense of God's word is dangerous, and could potentially damn a soul in hell fire. In this chapter alone, Jesus had healed a man with withered hand (vs 10) and healed a demon possessed individual who was also blind and dumb (vs 22), and yet the same crowd that witnessed all of these were saying "Master, we would see a sign from thee" (vs 38). This begs the questions:

- 1) How many signs would they need to see in order to believe?
- 2) If the signs they have already seen do not convince them, what difference would additional sign make to their life and faith?

There is place for signs and wonders. When John the Baptist sent disciples to ask Jesus if He was the Messiah, Jesus simply performed miracles and told John's disciples to report back to John what they had witnessed. This is because John had already known the scriptures

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concerning Jesus. Therefore, the miracles Jesus performed on that occasion were aimed at providing the evidence base for John to substantiate the truth of the scriptures he had already known and anchor his faith on God's word.

On this occasion, Jesus refused to perform more miracles but rather taught this people the supremacy of God's word of God's word as basis for faith. Note the points He covered and the illustrations He used:

- 1) He referred to their obsession for sign as a mark of an evil and adulterous generation (vs 39);
- 2) He demonstrated the link to the sign of Jonas as an anti-type of His death, burial and resurrection (vs 39-40);
- 3) He showed that the Ninevites had a better response by repenting on Jonah's preaching, even when Jonah did not perform any miracles, than this people who heard the preaching of Jesus and saw His miracles, but instead of repenting are seeking for more miracles. The verdict could not be more stark, that on the day of Judgement the Ninevites would condemn the people of that generation by spurning the greater light that they were privileged to see;
- 4) The queen of the south so valued the wisdom of Solomon that she travelled such a long distance at great cost to hear him; but this people did not show value to the word, wisdom and power of Jesus, nor recognise their long awaited Messiah! Again the verdict is very stark, that on the day of Judgement, this queen would condemn the people of that generation for their lack of insight and unbelief.

Where does that leave you? Are you a seeker of signs only or a believer of God's word?