

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Signs and Wonders

Luke 11: 29-36

In the previous passage Jesus answered the objection of some in the crowd that He was casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul. Now He turns His attention to the request for a sign that will prove His claims and His message.

I. A Wicked Generation

- A. Some in the crowd are demanding a sign, some external proof, that Jesus is sent from God. Why does this make them wicked (evil)?
- B. A greater One than Jonah or Solomon
 - 1. The sign of Jonah
 - 2. The compelling wisdom of Solomon
 - 3. The many signs, wonders, and miracles of Jesus done already

II. Blessed are Those Who Believe Without Seeing

- A. John 20:24-31—a doubting Thomas and future believers
- B. Romans 1:18-23—what can be known about God from the world and universe around us?
- C. The testimony of the Holy Spirit and the witness of the heart
 - 1. John 16:7-11—the work of the Holy Spirit
 - 2. 2 Cor 4:1-7—The enemy causes blindness, God brings the Light
- D. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket or in the cellar
 - 1. If you have seeing eyes, the whole body is full of light
 - 2. If your eye is evil, even the light you have is darkness

III. So Why Is Jesus' Audience an Evil Generation?

- A. The One standing before them, and the message He brings, is absolutely true; it is attested by many signs, wonders, and miracles, it is witnessed by the Holy Spirit, it has the ring of truth in their hearts...
- B. They do not want to believe! In fact, they are looking for excuses to discredit Him Whom they know to be true. They prefer to live in the bondage of their own sin and spiritual pride and to define religion in their own terms...
- C. What about you?

As the crowds were increasing, He began to say, "This generation is a wicked generation; it seeks for a sign, and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah. For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. The Queen of the South will rise up with the men of this generation at the judgment and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. "No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. The eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness. Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness. If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays."

Luke 11: 29-36 NASB

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the sign of Jonah to which Jesus alluded?
2. What made the generation of the Jews in Jesus' day wicked and evil?
3. Was their unbelief due to their ignorance and misunderstanding?
4. When you share your testimony of faith in Christ with others, what can you count on the Holy Spirit to be doing?
5. What is required in order to see (perceive) the truth about Jesus?

NOTES

When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the Lord, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed. She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness." And she gave the king 120 talents of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

1 Kings 10: 1-10 NIV

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