

INSISTING ON MORE SIGNS - SIGN OF A WICKED HEART

Matthew 16:4 (NKJV)

4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.

Jesus and His apostles were identified with SIGN-MIRACLES that validated their unique ministries and their message. Jesus’ SIGN-MIRACLES authenticated Him as the promised Messiah. They were in accordance with and fulfillment of O.T. prophecy. The apostles were in a very real sense an extension of Christ’s ministry (cf. Acts 1:1-2). They were UNIQUE! The apostles (and their close associates, the prophets) are the FOUNDATION of the church and, as such gave forth the N.T. Scriptures (cf. Eph. 2:20; Heb. 2:3-4).

Jesus’ ministry was accompanied with a plethora of sign-miracles - so much so, that no one challenged the fact that supernatural wonders were happening through Him. The EVIDENCE was overwhelming that He was the promised Messiah (cf. Mt. 11:4-5). However, even though He had done so many SIGNS before them yet the people, for the most part, still did not believe in Him (Jn. 12:37).

In the context of Christ’s ministry, the Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus wanting to see yet ANOTHER SIGN. They wanted a SIGN FROM HEAVEN (Mt. 16:1). They wanted a really super-duper SIGN from heaven sort of like what happened under Moses with the giving of the manna. This was WICKED! Jesus had given them plenty of signs in superabundance. Their problem was their wicked hearts of UNBELIEF that were rejecting the obvious truth of who Jesus was (cf. Matt. 15:8-9).

In effect, they were rejecting the Scriptures, which testified of Christ being the Messiah because His SIGN-MIRACLE ministry was a FULFILLMENT of Scripture (cf. Jn. 5:46-47). Jesus would give these religious leaders NO MORE SIGNS except the one from Scripture - namely His death and resurrection which were illustrated in the experience of Jonah (Mt. 16:4). They wanted a SIGN – so Jesus took them BACK TO SCRIPTURE!

INSISTING ON SIGNS IS TANTAMOUNT TO REJECTING THE SCRIPTURES

Jesus and His apostles uniquely had SIGN-MIRACLE ministries. That is in the past. No one is doing the things they did today. The ridiculous claim of the so called “signs and wonders movement” lacks credibility by virtue of

the fact: 1) it doesn't square with Scripture; 2) it's just not happening. Jesus and the apostles LEFT us the Scriptures and they are ALL-SUFFICIENT. We are not told to do signs and wonders but to propagate the Word of God. 1 Corinthians 1:21 says, "it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." This is God's plan and purpose for us. We NEED to believe in the power and sufficiency of God working through the Word of God (cf. Heb. 4:12).

It seems many today have lost faith in the Word and are looking for SIGNS. This betrays a wicked heart! John 20:30 says, "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book".

NOTE the emphasis is on the SIGNS that Jesus did and they verified that Jesus was the Christ - the Son of God. John continues in verse 31, "but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." These are WRITTEN!

We go back to what is WRITTEN about what Jesus did and on that basis BELIEVE and have LIFE. We are not to look for new or more SIGN-MIRACLES. We go back to what was WRITTEN!

Paul was not ashamed of the gospel because He knew it was EFFECTIVE and SUFFICIENT to save (Rom. 1:16). We don't need more signs and wonders - we need to BELIEVE in the POWER of the Word of God. To say that the Word of God is inadequate is in fact blasphemous! To insist on the need for more SIGNS is to misunderstand the program and Word of God. God may work in "miraculous" ways through prayer, but the time of SIGN-MIRACLES ministries is completed. Our job is now to PROCLAIM the TRUTH those SIGNS affirmed.

Truly believing in **the ultimate** SIGN-WORKER (the Lord Jesus Christ) means I don't insist on more SIGNS. His Word is now sufficient!

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NKJV)

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

God has spoken! He has spoken in His Son Who is the complete and final revelation of God. All has been spoken in His Son!