

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, January 8, 2023**

**Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew**

**Message 75. Give Us a Sign – Matthew 12:38-42**

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Introduction: The Pharisees respond to Jesus' criticism and the exposure of their wickedness by sarcastically demanding that He prove that He is the Messiah. They asked for a spectacular miracle – a sign that would leave no doubt that He was the Messiah. They believed He couldn't, but they couldn't (and wouldn't) believe.

- I. We Want to See a Sign – vs. 38
  - A. He Had Already Shown Them Messianic Signs – Matt. 11:4-5
    1. “What further signs could they seek than those He had already given?” – CHS
    2. There were many witnesses to these signs – Matt. 12:23
    3. The Pharisees response to truly Messianic signs was to plot His death – Matt. 12:14
  - B. They Attributed All These Signs to Satan – Matt. 12:24
  - C. Prove It!
    1. This was not a sincere question, but a test – Matt. 16:1-4
    2. We need faith, not proof – Heb. 11:1, 6
    3. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word – Rom. 10:17
    4. They could not believe
      - a. Works – John 10:24-27, 37-39
      - b. Words – John 8:43-45
    5. Boice Quote #1
- II. The Evil of Seeking a Sign – vs. 39a
  - A. Evil = Wicked, Harmful
    1. Treating miracles as if they were nothing
    2. Seeking self-satisfaction – John 6:26-27
  - B. Adulterous = Unfaithful – John 6:64-66
- III. The Sign – vs. 39b-40
  - A. The Sign of Jonah
    1. Death, burial, resurrection – 1 Cor. 15:3-8, 12-17
      - a. We preach Christ crucified – 1 Cor. 1:21-24
      - b. This Jesus God has raised up – Acts 2:22-33
    2. Three days and three nights – 3 days
  - B. Salvation Requires Faith in the Risen Christ – Rom. 10:9-10
  - C. Even Then, They Didn't Believe the Greatest Sign – Matt. 28:11-15; Luke 16:31
- IV. Judgment Upon Sign Seekers – vs. 41-42
  - A. Judged by the Repentant Ninevites – CHS #2
    1. They heard the preaching of Jonah
    2. Jesus is greater than Jonah
  - B. Judged by the Queen of Sheba – CHS #3
    1. She sought the wisdom of Solomon – 1 Kings 10:1-13
    2. Jesus is greater than Solomon
    3. He came to His own, but His own rejected Him – John 1:11
- V. We Ask for a Sign; God Sent Us His Son – Luke 2:10-12

## **Cross References**

### **Matthew 11:4-5**

4 Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

### **Matthew 12:23**

23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

### **Matthew 12:14**

14 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

### **Matthew 12:24**

24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, “This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”

### **Matthew 16:1-4**

16 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’; 3 and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. 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.

### **Hebrews 11:1, 6**

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

### **Romans 10:17**

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

### **John 10:24-27**

24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, “How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” 25 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

### **John 10:37-39**

37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.” 39 Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.

### **John 8:43-45**

43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.

### **John 6:26-27**

26 Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”

### **John 6:64-66**

64 But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. 65 And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” 66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

### **1 Corinthians 15:3-8**

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

### **1 Corinthians 15:12-17**

12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

### **1 Corinthians 1:21-24**

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

### **Acts 2:22-33**

22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was

not possible that He should be held by it. 25 For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.' 29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

### **Romans 10:9-10**

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

### **Luke 16:31**

31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "

### **1 Kings 10:1-13**

10 Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions. 2 She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels that bore spices, very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. 3 So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her. 4 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 5 the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her. 6 Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. 7 However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard. 8 Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom! 9 Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness." 10 Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, spices in great quantity, and precious stones. There never again came such abundance of spices as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. 11 Also, the ships of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought great quantities of almug wood and precious stones from Ophir. 12 And the king made steps of the almug wood for the house of the Lord and for the king's house, also harps and stringed instruments for singers. There never again came such almug wood, nor has the like been seen to this day. 13 Now King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked, besides what Solomon had given her according to the royal generosity. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

### **John 1:11**

11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

## **Luke 2:10-12**

10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

### **Quotes**

Boice #1 – “What kind of evidence would it take? I sometimes say that even if God rearranged the very stars of heaven to read, ‘Jesus is My Son, with whom I am well pleased, believe on Him,’ people would look at the stars, scratch their heads, and say, ‘Isn’t that unusual? I wonder how the stars managed to rearrange themselves that way?’”

Spurgeon #2 – “The heathen of Nineveh were convinced by the sign of a prophet restored from burial in the sea and they repented at his preaching. The Ninevites repented while the Jews were hardened – those who heard Jonah and repented will rise, and they will be swift witnesses against those who heard Jesus refused His testimony.”

Spurgeon #3 – “The Queen of Sheba will rise again, and will rise up as a witness against unbelieving Jews, for she journeyed far to hear Solomon, while they could not hear the Son of God Himself who came into their midst.”