

Believing without Seeing

Luke 11:27-32

We live in a time when people want “signs” to confirm God exists and really cares. Such a generation is described by the Son of God as a “wicked” generation. What? Why does Jesus use the word “wicked”? Faith based on a sign, or logic, or feeling or experience, is faith present in the hearts of the graceless. *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God”* (Romans 10:17), not our experiences. Faith comes from Him, not our feelings! – Him, not our reason! – Him, not any signs or spectacular wonders!

I. Jesus pronounces a blessing on those who believe the Word and obey it (vs. 27-28).

“Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and observe it” (the KJV uses the word “obeys it.”)

A woman cries out, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed.”

These words weren’t pronouncing *praise and veneration on Mary*, they are a figure of speech.

It’s like saying, “That child is an honor to his parents,” or “That child must make his parents proud.”

A). Mary’s story is the same as all those who come to faith in Christ.

Her blessedness did not arise so much from the fact that the Son of God was in her womb, but from the fact that He was in her heart. After she’d given birth to the Lord Jesus, Mary came to the temple with the sacrifice of the law because she too was a sinner (Luke 2:24; Lev. 12:6-8).

B). True blessing found in those who hear the Word and obey it.

Be careful here. This obedience is “the obedience of faith” (Romans 1:5; 16:26). Jesus said the entire Word “speaks of me” (Luke 24:27). It’s the ability to hear of Christ and to trust Christ. He forgives me; I gladly forgive you. He loves me; I’ll love you even when you don’t love me.

II. Those who aren’t blessed demand a sign before believing (v. 29).

Those who are unregenerate demand something more than the Word of God before they trust.

“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” (Luke 11:29).

A). Jesus considers the need for a “sign” before trust something wicked.

The gospel is “foolish” to people and requires the Spirit to open the eyes to believe (Luke 24:32). Therefore, the person who demands “a sign” is looking to something other than the Spirit.

B). If you struggle with coming to faith in God’s love for you, seek the Spirit.

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me as the priority of your heart” (Jer. 29:13).

III. The only sign God gives to confirm the gospel is the sign of Jonah (vs. 29-30).

This sign is what Jonah pictures of Jesus. A man was swallowed up in the wrath of God (the cross). When wrath was turned away, that man arose from the belly of whale (hell), after three days gone. That risen man proclaimed grace to sinners deserving the wrath of God. Believe Him and be blessed.

IV. Judgment is greater for those who live in a gospel generation and refuse to believe (vs. 31-32)

The Queen of Sheba, when she heard report of Solomon’s riches, greatness, wisdom and glory, traveled many miles at great expense to meet that great man, on the basis of nothing but the word of men. And Solomon was only a sinful man. – *“Behold, something greater than Solomon is here!”* Likewise, the men of Nineveh, when they heard the message of God by the lips of Jonah, a prophet who was at best less than desirable, repented. – *“Behold, something greater than Jonah is here!”*

You have heard the Word of God, the gospel of His grace. – “The word of God is near you” (Rom.10:8). Will this good news be a blessing to you, or will it become a curse? Believe and be blessed by God now.