

# Matthew 12:38-50

Gospel of the Messiah & His Kingdom Come

## NO MORE SIGNS BUT ONE

### Wildly Inappropriate Request of the Pharisees (12:38-42)

<sup>12:39</sup> But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it *except the sign of the prophet Jonah*."

The request for yet another sign by the scribes and Pharisees was wildly inappropriate because over the course of the previous two years or more Jesus has given the nation of Israel countless miraculous signs validating His claim to be their promised Messiah-King. The Pharisees and the Jews following them have proven themselves to be evil by attributing the good signs Jesus has done to the evil power of Satan and they have proven themselves adulterous in that they do not know nor do they want to know God the Father as revealed through Jesus the Son.

The remaining sign that will be given to that generation is *the sign of Jonah*. The sign of Jonah is **the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth after three days in the grave!** The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate sign and proof that Jesus is the promised Messiah-King. But as Matthew will report, even the ultimate sign of the resurrection of Jesus will be rejected by the scribes and Pharisees. Their end will be condemnation at the Great White Throne Judgment.

### From Bad to Worse (12:43-45)

<sup>12:45</sup> "...the last state of that person is *worse than the first*. So also will it be with this evil generation."

Failure to fill one's life with the things of God leaves a formerly possessed person vulnerable to being possessed again, not by one, but several demons. By analogy, the nation had been "freed" and "cleaned up" from pharisaical Judaism through Jesus, but in rejecting Him they have failed to fill themselves with the things of God. As a result, the remaining days of that generation are going to go from bad to worse. Though Matthew does not record it here, the final days of that generation will be the Holocaust of 66-70 A.D. at the brutal hands of the Roman legions.

## God First (12:46-50)

12:49-50 And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>50</sup> **For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."**

In contrast to the scribes and Pharisees and those Jews who have followed them in their lie and rejection of Jesus, Jesus' disciples stand out as those, who, by their faith and obedience have proven themselves even more loyal than blood relations. This is high praise in a strong group culture where loyalty to blood kin is the highest ethic. In the Kingdom of God, loyalty to God is the highest ethic.

### Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth

The literal, physical resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is and always will be the cornerstone and foundation of the Christian faith. After the ascension of Jesus, the core message His disciples declared was Jesus' resurrection. Jesus' resurrection is the assurance of your future resurrection (Rom. 6:5; 1 Cor. 6:16; Phil. 3:21)

Questions about the resurrection of Jesus? Here is an excellent article explaining the many evidences for the resurrection of Jesus from the dead: <https://bible.org/article/whats-evidence-resurrection>.

### Rejection Has Consequences

Rejecting Jesus as their Messiah-King and Savior had tragic consequences for the first-century nation of Israel. Similarly, rejecting Jesus today has tragic consequences both for this life and the life to come. Rejecting Jesus cuts you off from knowing and experiencing the true Creator God Who made us, sustains us, loves us, and gives purpose and meaning to our lives. Rejecting Jesus cuts us off from experiencing the indwelling and empowering of the Holy Spirit and the many ways He transforms us from the inside out to become like Jesus and to serve Jesus. Rejecting Jesus cuts us off from the only way to be forgiven and reconciled to God such that we are delivered from judgment and condemnation and eternal separation from God in the life to come.

### God First

Given Who God is, there is no question that He is to have first place in your life. When He is first, He transforms you into the person He created you to be; in other words, the best version of you. In another example of His grace and goodness, when you seek to make Him first you will become a better husband, wife, father, mother, child, friend, boss and employee.

---

## NEWS & NEEDS

### What's Happening at Grace:

New Group Starting! *FATHERS Group every other Thursday 6-7:30 pm starting Oct 23.*

Business Meeting: November 2, 4:00 pm

Baptism Class: November 9, 10 am, Room 1. No Sign Ups Required!

FIND DETAILS AND SIGNUPS ON THE APP!

### Opportunities to Serve:

VOM: Combs/hair picks of all sizes



**Church Center App**

