

Luke

See Jesus

Looking for a Sign or Listening to God's Son?

Luke 11:27-32

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Feb. 27, 2022

I. He Wants You to Stop Living by Your Emotions and Start Listening to His Word

Luke 11:27-28 “As He said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts at which You nursed!”²⁸ But He said, ‘Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!’”

The woman is caught up in the moment thinking how favored and happy she would be to have a son like that. What Jesus says in verse 28 is not a stern rebuke to this woman, but a clarifying correction and addition to what she said.

Jesus didn't just redirect her emotions from His mother back to Him. He changed the focus altogether as He brought it back to God's Word.

Emotions will only carry you so far, but the truth of God's Word endures forever and remains the same on your worst day, your best day, and all the ordinary days in between.

Have you learned to listen to His Word, hold onto it, and do it when you feel like it and when you don't?

II. He Wants You to Stop Looking for the Supernatural and Start Trusting in What He's Done

Luke 11:29-30 “When the crowds were increasing, He began to say, ‘This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.’³⁰ For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.”

People love to say, “If I could see a miracle I would believe!” but this is a lie. Jesus was here on earth and did some of the most spectacular things that have ever been done. In every instance, part of the crowd would believe and many would still reject Him.

Miracles can draw a crowd and gain some applause, but they cannot create saving faith in the heart of any man or woman. Only God's Word by God's Spirit can do that!

At the heart of unbelief is a moral problem, not an intellectual problem. From birth, we are bent towards sin and away from God. That's why no amount of evidence will ever turn unbelief into faith.

The absence of evidence is not our real problem. The presence of sin is our real problem.

See Romans 1:16-25

Matthew 12:39-40 “...An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Jesus is talking about His own death and resurrection from the dead being the greatest sign He's going to give them. This is the sign that God has given to all generations for all time now! Nothing greater needs to be done because nothing greater *could* be done!

That glorious event shattered the power of sin once and for all, making it possible for sinners like us to be forgiven and set free to live radically different in this life and forevermore with Him in the next.

III. He Wants You to Stop Ignoring Who He Is and Start Preparing for What's to Come

Luke 11:31-32 “The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.³² The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”

Jesus is talking about that final day outside of this world when we stand before our Creator God to give an account for our lives. We will either be condemned in our sin or accepted because of Jesus, who took the punishment for us.

The only hope for entering into heaven and not going to hell is to have trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior.

A decade ago, the atheist and academic philosopher, Antony Flew, made a big stir when he left atheism and converted to belief in a creator of the universe after more than 50 years of being one of the most famous atheists and outspoken critics of Christianity.

In a 2004 interview, Flew stated he had renounced his long-standing espousal of atheism and was endorsing the deism of Thomas Jefferson, who said, “While reason, mainly in the form of arguments to design, assures that there is a God, there is no room either for any supernatural revelation of that God or for any transactions between that God and human beings.”

To his deathbed, Dr. Flew continued to squelch rumors that he'd actually become a Christian by saying things like, “I'm quite happy to believe in an inoffensive, inactive god.” In the *Sunday Times*, he went on to say, “I don't want a future life. I want to be dead when I'm dead and that's an end to it.”

Hebrews 9:27-28 “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.”

From the moment you put your trust in Jesus, the condemnation that stood against you for your sin is removed.

See Romans 8:1-4; 31-39

How do you get ready for this day of judgment?

Luke 11:32 “...for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”

It's not enough to just look at what He's done. You have to repent and believe in what He's done.

Repentance is more than just being sorry for your sin. Repentance is the Greek word “metanoia” that means a change of mind that is so strong it changes the direction of your life.

Repentance is turning to God and away from the voices, desires, priorities, and love of this world that try to capture and rule our hearts and minds.