



“Craving More Proof”

Matthew 12:38–50

The Commission of the King

Introduction:

We have a Bible full of miracles...full of wonderful evidence of God’s power. But sometimes it’s not enough...

- The Gideon Syndrome (Judges 6–8)
- The Commission of the King (Matthew 10–12)

Matthew 12:38 – “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”

Luke 11:16 – “Others, to test Him, were demanding of Him a sign from heaven.”

Matthew 12:39 – “But He [Jesus] answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign...’”
(sign = Greek word: *semeion* = signs, wonders, and miracles...signposts)

It is the nature of sinful humanity to demand more and more signs and wonders. The problem is not in the signs themselves but in the demanding of the signs in the midst of our weak faith...i.e., the Gideon Syndrome.

Signpost #1: The Story of Jonah

Matthew 12:38–42 – “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” But He answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.’”

Luke 11:30 – “For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.”

Signpost #2: The Repentance of Ninevah

Matthew 12:41 – “The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah...”

- The City of Nineveh...
- The Preaching of Jonah...
- The Revival of Nineveh...

Matthew 12:41 – “The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”
(cf. Luke 11:32)

Signpost #3: The Queen of Sheba Seeking Wisdom

Matthew 12:42 – “The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here” (cf. Luke 11:31)

1 Kings 10:9 – “Blessed be the LORD your God who delighted in you...”

Matthew 12:42 – “...and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.”

- Divine Wisdom found in Jesus: the Incarnate Word of God (cf. Matthew 13:54).
- Divine Wisdom found in the Bible: the written Word of God.
- Divine Wisdom found in the Indwelling Holy Spirit of God.
- Divine Wisdom found in the people of God indwelt by the Spirit of God and filled with the Word of God!

cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18–30

Matthew 12:42 – “The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it...”
(cf. Luke 11:31)

Signpost #4: The Power of the Unclean Spirits

Matthew 12:43–45 – “Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came’; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.”
(cf. Luke 11:24–26)

Any kind of verbal testimony without evidence of the fruit of true repentance is like freeing a person of demons without a true change of heart.

Matthew 11:45b – “That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.”

When a generation rejects the Messiah—whose evidence of power it once accepted...expect the next generation to be even more entrenched in its unbelief.

1 Timothy 4:1–2 – “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron...” (2 Timothy 3:1 ff.)

2 Timothy 3:5 – “then speaks of the generation in the end times that is “holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power (Greek: *dunamis*...another word sometimes translated as “miracles.”)

Signpost #5: The Forever Family of God

Matthew 12:46–50 – “While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. Someone said to Him, ‘Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.’ But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, ‘Who is My mother and who are My brothers?’ And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, ‘Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother’”
(cf. Mark 3:31–35; Luke 8:19–21).

Luke 8:21 – “My mother and My brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it!”

We in the Family of God are “signs and wonders” reflecting the power of God in the lives of all of Jesus’ disciples.

Conclusion:

Proverbs 30:7 – “Feed me with the food that is my portion...”

1 Corinthians 1:22 – “For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness...”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:

1. What miracles in the Bible most get your attention as signs of God’s power?
2. When are we humans most prone to crave a special and personal sign from God?
3. What did you get most out of this message?