



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 56 “What’s the Harm in Seeking a Sign?” By Pastor Jody May

Luke 11:27-32 ESV

True Blessedness

²⁷ 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 Sign of Jonah

²⁹ 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. ³¹ 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.

Introduction: What does it take to get you to see that God is for real (Illustration of the man that refused to see God in his life)?

What does it take to believe? To go from the stance of “believing in God” (James 2:19) to “believe God”? Fighting for belief in God means we are always trying to have a blessed life without Him. Believing in God propels us to live a life that is blessed by His good graces. Blessed Life = Believing God.

1. Blessed Life = Believing God.



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These things (vs. 27) – The revealing words of Christ from last week that we saw when Jesus made “his draw a line in the sand comment” - *Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.* (Luke 11:23). Jesus had just produced the good news, that it is not the practice of the law, what the Pharisees taught, that will save people, but it is the Grace of God that saves, *And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.* (11:9). After declaring the gospel, a voice rings out of the back of the crowd:

27 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!”

Jesus responds with a **RATHER**; sister you know you are right; her name will be written down in history but let me correct that:

28 But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

This unnamed woman was declaring from a time when women were not valued the same as a man in a society. Perhaps she believed that being the physical mother of this amazing man, if He is the Christ was going to at least elevate this woman to a hero of faith like Sarah or Deborah.

Instead Jesus states that all people are blessed, men and women, boys and girls, Jews and Gentiles alike, for those that believe (OBEY) God’s Word. Those that not just see what Jesus can do, that don’t just hear the moral lessons in what Jesus was teaching, but **those that get and respond to the authority in Jesus’ words** for He is the living Word of God. Those that have gone from believing in God to believing God.

2. Sign Seekers? – Maybe you just made a wrong turn...

29 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.



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An evil generation; yep, it's not just the pharisees Jesus is talking about, these are the common people walking from around the countryside to see Jesus. They were corrupt because they were born sinful AND their teachers were corrupt. That's why Paul declares none are righteous no not one (Rom. 10:3). What does it look like when people go looking for a sign oblivious of their need for Christ?

Illustration of me lost in the middle of the state of Florida. - When you are lost you **forget looking for signs** and believe, that is to follow what you know to be true, in this case head east **towards the Sun**, and you will **find your way home**.

In this world, in this life you and I will be given only 1 sign to get us home, the sign of Jonah, the picture of the life, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus, proclaiming to the world the forbearance of wrath because someone took the penalty of sin for us. That's our sign.

But maybe like me you spend a lot of time navigating life, getting even more lost because you are looking for signs. **You are practicing a belief in a God, but you are not believing God** in what shows you the way home:

Maybe your suffering under the allusion that the answer to your money problems is not learning how to budget, save, and live on less better, but that God will deliver more money first; **that's a sign 'financial upticks'**. Therefore, we think when God blesses us with more, **He now loves me**, and I am ready to follow Him. The sign of following God in the midst of debt and having little is **putting all you have into stewarding it for God's Kingdom** because you are believing God will bless the little you have!

Maybe your suffering still under the allusion that when you sacrifice your life on the altar of work God will reward you with a happy family; **that's the sign the 'happy family'**. But the reality is the family becomes content when you sacrifice your need for identity and financial security which has been elevated over God, because they have you instead. BTW don't make a sign out of your family's happiness their faulty too. Instead, follow God's command to glorify God in your



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home first, **seek Him first, and then all these things are added unto you** (Mat. 6:33). Believe God...

Perhaps your suffering and feeling lost because **you take it too seriously how others treat you**. If the spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, children, boss, or church leaders treat you with respect **that’s your sign that you have been ‘found worthy’**. Instead try anchoring your identity in Christ, **NOT OTHERS**, He was found worthy for you, and gave you all the benefits of worthiness to stand in front of God. **Therefore**, you need not anyone’s kudos for your happiness. That’s believing God, and when you begin to live that, you will discover you don’t need the kudos of man anymore.

So, for all of us that constantly make wrong turns in looking for signs, those of us that are having trouble believing that **God is that Glorious** here is that last truth from our text today:

3. One Sign Fits All!

³⁰For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. ³¹The 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. ³²The 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.

Jonah, one of the greatest prophets, reluctantly went to Nineveh to the pagan evil gentiles, and they all repented! It shows that **the blind**, unable to see any signs at all **did SEE GOD!** (Jonah 3)

The Queen of the South (the Queen of Sheba) left her land to see King Solomon to hear about God (1 Kings 10). The **Deaf Gentiles** could **finally hear**, and they brought great wealth as a sign of their subservience.



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One greater than the temple (Mat 12:6) one greater than Jonah, and one greater than Solomon. Yes, Jesus is the greater prophet, priest, and king and the sign for the wicked generation is that the Gentiles will recognize Him, respond to Him as king, and will believe God. This is how the church was birthed my family, we have seen a whole people, still looking for a sign, and through their misfortune we have been blessed (Rom 11).

What we have learned today:

Surrendering to God’s call of **Repentance/Obedience** is declaring your faith before your **Prayers/Signs** are answered which brings a **Blessed Life**.

Family, let me appeal to you one more time today:

If your belief system is that God is working on you to prepare you for the life you want before you ever obediently follow Him.

OR

If you are believing that He is upset with you and that is why your life does not pan out the way you want and it requires more work from you to get Him to notice you.

Then you are still looking for the wrong sign! In love I say again, the only sign you have coming in this life is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus that claims it was enough, that claims it is finished, that claims there is more to life after death than before it, then hear his Word and believe God, ²⁸ **But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”**

“Believe God!” don’t just believe in God, head towards the Son, follow Him and you will find your way home.



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PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that saved the best sign for last, His Son, ensuring that the elect would be saved.

Go in the name of the Son, that lived His life perfectly, according to the scriptures becoming a beacon so all His people may find their way home.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, opening our deaf ears and blind eyes so that we may also point others to the one true sign that fits all.