

SERMON NOTES
Mt.12.38-42 - Prove It! #173
June 26, 2022

Man's natural sinfulness & lostness are not always apparent.

Sin is most clearly and indisputably manifested by how a person responds to Jesus Christ.

On the surface - they appeared to be **righteous** men of God, dedicated to His service & to His Word.

A person may successfully **hide** his sin for a long time (I Ti.5.24)

The scribes & Pharisees had managed to keep a facade of **tolerance** regarding Jesus.

Their attitude appeared one of godliness, but they did not have saving **trust** in Jesus Christ.

They have a false & **distorted** view of Jesus.

They cannot hide their **rejection** of the true Gospel & the true God.

They do not love God, because they hate & despise the Son & the **way** of salvation He provides.

By this time the scribes & Pharisees were entrenched in their opposition & **hatred** of Jesus.

The more they tried to entrap Jesus, the more He **exposed** their ungodliness ...

I. THE LAST SIGN vv.38–40 -

❖ The hypocritical demand for a sign exposed the wickedness of these people.

The scribes and Pharisees were the authorized interpretive **scholars** and lawyers of Judaism.

(1) THE CHALLENGE v.38b

This group of scholars/religious leaders considered no other person to be **qualified** to teach them.

It was their intention here to expose Jesus as a **false** teacher.

The request was an official demand for Jesus to **prove** Himself to be the Messiah.

(2) THE REPLY vv.39–40

Jesus declares their very *request for a sign* reflects **wicked** expectations of an evil **generation**.

During the Babylonian captivity Jews had forsaken **formal** idolatry.

In its place they erected idols of man-made **tradition** in which they trusted & put their hope.

A Jew who served God under the covenant given to Moses would **accept** His Son when He came;

...because anyone rightly related to the Father could not fail to **recognize** the Son.

Because they knew the Father, they knew the Son and did not need a sign to verify His identity.

It was **contrary** to God's nature & plan for Jesus to perform such a miracle.

The O.T. contains 2 kinds of prophecy regarding Christ.

✚ One is what may be called the verbally **predictive**,

❖ in which specific & sometimes **detailed** predictions are given.

Such prophecies include those:

➤ That the Christ would be born of a **virgin** (Is.7.14),

➤ That He would be a descendant of **David** who would rule the entire earth with justice & righteousness (Je.23.5), &

➤ That He would be born in **Bethlehem** (Mi.5.2).

✚ The 2nd type of messianic prophecy is **typical**,

❖ in which an O.T. person or event **foreshadowed** the person or work of Christ.

We can be certain of typical predictions only if they are specifically identified as such in the N.T.

Jesus believed in the full **literalness** of the biblical account of Jonah.

Jesus also verified the **authenticity** of Jonah's account of himself.

His own **resurrection**, would be the only **sign** from heaven they would receive. It was the final sign Jesus directly gave to the world of His **messianic** credentials & **saving** power.

CONCLUSION:

When a person is confronted with the **living** Christ & with His **atoning** death & resurrection, the matter of that person's eternal **destiny** is determined.