

SIGNS, SIGNS, WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SIGNS

(Matt. 12:39 and 16:4)

Introduction:

1. Signs are an important component of God's teaching of mankind. Signs were used to teach, to chide, to encourage, and to assure.
2. One of the main differences between the Gospel of John and the so-called Synoptic Gospels is John's use of *semeion* (a sign) to describe the miracles of Jesus, versus *dunamis* (power) as most often used in the synoptics. John sought to put the emphasis of Jesus' miracles on what they represented not just the power involved.
3. Let us, this morning, consider signs: the ones revealed to us and the ones we encounter in our daily lives; and let us ponder their significance.

Discussion:

I. The Bible Discussing Signs.

A. Old Testament Signs.

1. Physical death, suffering, etc. are themselves signs of the sin of mankind (Gen. 2:15-17).
2. The rainbow was established as a sign to both God and man regarding sin and God's punishing of it (Gen. 9:12-16; cp. 2 Pet. 3:1-6).
3. Israel's existence/continued existence was a sign of God working His will (Is. 43:1-10).
4. Signs concerning the promised savior = A virgin would conceive and give birth to the Messiah (Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:22, 23). She would deliver that Child in Bethlehem of Judah (Mic. 5:2; Matt. 2:1-6) in the days of the Roman Empire (Dan. 2:44; Luke 2:1ff), and that He would be rejected and put to death for the sins of mankind (Is. 53; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).

B. New Testament signs.

1. Jesus fulfilling over 300 OT Prophecies, thus Matthew's constant pointing out that so much of what Jesus said, did, and was fulfilled what was written.
2. Jesus used the fulfillment of signs to teach (Matt. 11:1-6).
3. Jesus chided the Jewish leadership for not accepting the signs (Matt. 16:1-4; cp. Jer. 8:7).
4. Jesus used a fig tree as a sign of the coming destruction of Israel (Matt. 21:18-22).

C. The work of the Holy Spirit (Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:1-4).

II. The Signs Before Us Today.

- A. The New Testament teaches us that although the word has spread to all (Col. 1:23), a great falling away would occur (2 Thess. 2:3) that would bring about the fulfillment of the illustration of our Lord regarding the two gates (Matt. 7:13, 14).
- B. The New Testament teaches (esp. John 15) us that His people will be rejected (as He was), will be few in number, will suffer for His name's sake, and often will be put to death (as He was).
- C. The New Testament encourages Jesus' people to remain faithful despite all of these things (Rev. 2:10), be assured because He warned us of these things ahead of time (gave us signs!-John 14:29). The truth of salvation/reward is given with the greatest sign of all, the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:4; 8:11)!
- D. Signs that ought to teach/chide/sober us today:
 1. The suffering and death all around us ought to testify to us of sin and turn us to the solution.
 2. The rolling tide of godlessness/wickedness ought to call to mind biblical history and sober us to the hard truths of our walk with our Lord.
 3. The heart breaking dichotomy between the availability of the Bible and the number of those actually living according to its clear teaching ought to serve to soften our hearts towards one another and serve to reignite our debt to those outside.

Conclusion:

1. Back to our initial scripture reading. Jesus was not condemning God's giving of signs, nor their importance in helping God's people to understand/endure. Jesus was condemning those who constantly ask for signs but never accept the signs given, but just keep asking for more.
2. Are we guilty of this? All has been revealed to us, and we see lingering signs today. Are we accepting them and acting appropriately upon them? Or, are we like the Pharisees asking God for more signs before we are willing to take Him at His word, and trust and obey?
3. Invitation.

2017 SPIRITUAL MENU: HELP YOURSELVES!!				
YEAR	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
2017	Apr. 23-26	SEIBS Lectureship	Knoxville, TN	
2017	Apr. 23-26	OVU Lectureship	Vienna, WV	
2017	June	Jamestown Church Picnic	TBA	
2017	June 18-23	Virginia Christian Camp	Christiansburg, VA	
2017	July 21-23	Eric Lyons Gospel Meeting	Jamestown, NY	Is the Bible Reliable?
2017	Aug. 18-24	Polishing The Pulpit	Seveirville, TN	
2017	TBA	Ladies Retreat	Franklinville, NY	
2017	TBA	Men's Retreat	Franklinville, NY	
2017	Oct. 22-26	WVSOP Lectureship	Moundsville, WV	
2017	Nov.	CBI Retreat	Columbia, TN	
More Items to come as they become known				