

INSIDE/OUT (GOSPEL OF LUKE) - Dave Solmes

Luke 11:29-32 | March 6, 2022

Question:

1. Has there been times in your life when you have needed a “sign” from God or God to “prove yourself.”
2. Why do you think that the crowds were asking for more signs?
3. Why did Jesus refuse a new sign?
4. Which of these reasons resonate with you and your journey with God?

Sign seeking is asking God to audition for us, “God, prove yourself” as if God were a puppet, or a popular magician. This is truly a form of unbelief.

Sign seekers are fundamentally preoccupied with “comparison”. Is there someone better?” Is this it? Sign seekers truly question Jesus’ love.

A sign seeking type of faith

Puts Me in Charge - these people root themselves in their own thinking and their own wisdom. Thus, misplacing faith in themselves rather than God.

Is a faith that tends to reject the signs that we don’t like?

Sign Seeking causes us to miss the obvious faith building signs around us.

- Prior to Luke 11:29-32, Jesus has already raised the dead.
- Jesus has healed the blind, cast out demons, many had heard him teach.

Three conditions of the heart that sign seekers need to repent of

1. *Selfishness* - I want God on my terms and timing.
2. *Arrogance* - God I want to be God. I will tell God what is best.
3. *Shallowness* - A faith that is not deep enough, does not trust God deeply when trust is most needed response.

As we consider this passage, that day we hear Jesus inviting the crowds to put their faith in God. That day Jesus was not saying “no.” Everything about Him was a YES.

Read: 2 Corinthians 1:9

That day he was encouraging them to say YES to what they had already seen, heard, and know about Jesus. They knew a lot more than they realized.

What could, would, and should anchor these people's faith?

Read: Luke 11:30 & Matthew 12:40

Jesus would be a sign to this generation, because of His death, burial, and resurrection.

Jesus uses an illustration they would have known - the story of Jonah, the minor prophet, in the belly of a whale for three days and then thrown up from death and darkness to serve Nineveh resulting in many people coming to faith. So, Jesus by way of His Death, Burial, and Resurrection will offer the greatest SIGN and by doing so be the savior of the world.

So, to listener that day, Jesus journey to cross, death, burial and resurrection is the SIGN ... suggesting if you are still looking for a sign ... you don't understand the cross.

- The Cross and is this permanent sign.
- The Empty Tomb is the permanent sign.

WHY? The cross and the tomb speak of the:

- Power of God to superintend a redemptive plan for all people and creation.
- Unconditional and Absolute Love of God which is on full display.
- The fact that Jesus has conquered the two things that we can't = death and sin

The cross / empty changes the narrative. Helps us live responsibly with unanswered prayers even when life would seemingly be so much better if God would change things, give us a sign, answer a prayer. God asks us to believe. He invites us to leave our curiosity and interest in signs and wonders at the foot of the cross and entrance of the empty tomb

God asks us to fully abandon ourselves and follow Jesus, and let Jesus do for us what we can't do for ourselves. Living this type of a life, ultimately requires trust and obedience. We have got to be ... ALL IN.

Read John 4:23-24

What did Jesus mean to you? This passage highlights what God is seeking while we are often seeking more signs and wonders.

Read Psalm 52:9

Question: what is this such good advice?

Read: Philippians 4:6

Questions:

- Why is this such good advice?
- What steps will you take to more faithfully turn your needs over to God?