

Are You Looking For The Right Thing?

[Mar 8:11-13, 22-26 ESV] 11 The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. 12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." 13 And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.

22 And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" 24 And he looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking." 25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."

I. Intro

- A. Last Week: The disciples were still struggling to believe what they were seeing
- B. In the middle of that text, the Pharisees are seeking a sign from heaven
- C. What we see in all this is that everyone is looking for something, but they seem to be missing what they are seeing.

II. Text

A. Verse 11

- 1. Arguing with Jesus...not an effective strategy, but we do it too, and for similar reasons.
- 2. Seeking a sign from heaven:
 - a) Matthew records Jesus' response was concerning their superstitions.
 - b) [Mat 16:1-4 ESV] 1 And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' 3 And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. 4 An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." So he left them and departed.

B. Verse 12

- 1. They were consumed with seeing signs, yet they were world class at missing the point.
- 2. Illustration: Gold Medal Awards:
 - a) Getting stuck in Sherman traffic...gold medal
 - b) Getting in the wrong line at the chick fil a drive through...gold medal
 - c) Hearing God speak and talking myself out of it because its not what I wanted Him to say...gold medal
- 3. He has no intention of giving them the sign they are looking for, but will certain give them the sign that they need.
- 4. Jesus is going to be demonstrating his true nature and character to them rather than feeding their concept.

C. Verse 13: travel continues

D. Verse 22:

- 1. Back to home base area
- 2. A person in need goes to the messiah begging for healing.

E. Verses 23-25

- 1. He took the blind man by the hand: a personal touch, and necessary
- 2. Spit on his eyes, laid hands on...again...I'm not sure why
- 3. His healing was in process, at first, then came to fullness.

F. Verse 26

- 1. To protect the plan, He sent the man away
- 2. Do not even enter the village...there will be a revelation later, but now

3. The revelation will come when everyone is brought to the cross and resurrection and everyone will be able to see their savior.

III. Points

A. Seeking a Sign

1. The Pharisees were not looking for the right thing, but the right thing was showing himself to them.
2. They wanted red sky mornings, blood moons, and star configurations
 - a) These things they could interpret however they want
 - b) And make the less learned and pious feel inadequate
3. There are signs today that tell us what is to come, but during the ministry years of Christ was different: JESUS WAS THE SIGN
4. Today:
 - a) Wars and rumors of wars
 - b) Famines, earthquakes, pestilences
 - c) Prevalence of false teachers and the abandonment of the faith
 - d) Many other things...but the signs are still not the point.
 - e) The point is God is fulfilling the promises from scripture, and we are able to watch it happen and be encouraged in our faith.
5. Many people today are consumed with signs of the end times, to the point of imbalance.
 - a) Let me be clear, we should be informed and prepared for the end times
 - b) And, we should not forsake ministry and mission today because our focus is on the end.
 - c) When you see the signs all around, you should not grow more fearful, you should get busy serving the mission of Christ and His Church.
 - d) KNOW THIS:
 - (1) Jesus is going to return and get His church
 - (2) And the church had better be serving the mission until that moment.
6. When our focus is on signs and wonders, we often miss the beautiful relationship available to us.
7. Jesus was the sign, and is the heart behind all the signs and wonders that have ever been.
8. And He is showing us more of Himself through the relationship we have with Him:
 - a) More Grace
 - b) More Mercy
 - c) More Peace
 - d) More JOY
 - e) More Conviction
 - f) More Holiness
 - g) More LIFE

B. Sometimes its a process

1. The Healing of the blind man seems to be a process that speaks to us today.
 - a) Jesus could have commanded his eyes to be opened without a touch
 - b) He could have healed him without a spoken word
 - c) But He spit, He laid on hands, and then laid on hands again
 - d) NOT A WASTED DROP OF INK OR A WASTED MOMENT, this is important.
2. [1Co 13:11-13 ESV] 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
3. He was healed enough initially to have some vision, but it was not yet complete
4. Then He was healed fully, and there was no doubt.

5. Sometimes when God works in your life there is immediate healing, understanding, and direction.
 6. Other times, there is a process where we have enough and we learn to wait on the Lord.
 7. Either way, there is something to note in the working of God:
 - a) He takes the mans hand and guides him with tenderness
 - b) He brings sight and vision after spitting in his eyes...messy yet from Jesus so its cool
 - c) He then healed him fully and brought full vision and restoration.
 8. You are in a process of change and restoration for the purposes of GOD.
 - a) Surrender yourself to the plan, and learn through the process
 - b) Give your entire self to trusting God's direction
- C. Don't miss it
1. Don't miss what you should be looking for.
 2. It is ok to marvel at the signs and wonders, but we do not worship the signs and wonders
 3. To get distracted by the signs and wonders is to get caught up in the same trap as the pharisees.
 4. We all need to hear from God moment by moment in order to be directed appropriately in our life and ministry.
 5. Don't miss the relationship with Christ because you are looking for the mountain peak events.
 - a) Mountain peak events are really amazing for sure
 - b) But, the normal and mundane are just as amazing.
 - c) God can make beautiful and powerful displays of His majesty
 - d) And sometimes that is seen in His consistency.
 6. We should learn this as well!
 - a) We must find joy in consistent ministry and presence
 - b) We must consistently serve and give with the body
 - c) We must consistently attend and worship with the body
 - d) We must recognize that a regular day with the body is just as powerful as Resurrection Sunday with the body.
 7. What are the challenges to this:
 - a) Complacency
 - b) Convenience
 - c) Distractions
 - d) The list could go on, but you get the point.
 8. Jesus is revealing His power through the ministry of the church
 - a) Revealing His power in the big and the normal moments
 - b) Revealing His care for and through the body is evidence of His power.
 - c) Revealing His direction and correction allows us to grow together and serve the mission.
 9. All the simple things are not really simple things when you do it for Christ, and through the body, it is the process of revealing the fullness of Christ through His church...DON'T MISS IT!

IV. Close

- A. Don't miss Christ by looking for the wrong thing
- B. Don't miss Christ by seeking signs and wonders with the wrong heart
- C. Don't miss Christ because you are distracted by fringe things.