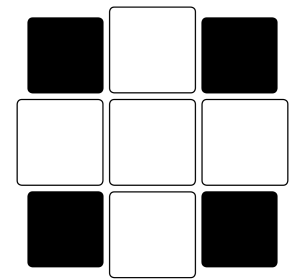


# The Sign of Jonah

Scripture: **Luke 11:29–32**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, August 26, 2018



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## Overview

Clearly there were those in Jesus' day (priests, scribes, Pharisees, etc.) who simply were not going to believe what Jesus was telling them, even when Jesus—as he often did—backed up his claims with divine miracles. Jesus wasn't merely speaking to those in positions of power; he was speaking to the multitudes of that generation who were skeptical to believe what Jesus had been teaching and proclaiming about himself and his kingdom. Many people demanded a sign in order for them to accept the authority of Jesus and believe in his message. However, this mindset is nothing new. Then, as now, it's common for people to say that they're not going to believe something until they see it; or they're not going to believe until they trust the messenger. Sometimes this is wise, but often times it may be an excuse to dismiss the message altogether because we don't want to deal with it. The truth is, seeing *isn't* believing. Having faith in Christ means receiving the Word of God and resting on what it says. Ultimately, our faith should be rooted in the person and work of Christ, and we should respond in humility and repentance. **If we don't believe Jesus' words, we will never believe Jesus' works.**

## Corroborating Texts

Hebrews 3:12; Luke 16:31; Romans 10:17; Matthew 12:38–40; 1 Kings 10:1–10

## Discussion Questions

1. We should be careful about seeking God's works over God's Word. In fact, our faith should be *shaped* by God's Word. Why is it often tempting to seek empirical, or experiential, evidence of our faith beyond our trust in God's Word? What keeps you from fully trusting in God's Word?
2. Why did Jesus say that he was speaking to an *evil* generation? [they were seeking a sign; they were living under the law and preparing for the Messiah, yet they dismissed what Jesus was saying and doing throughout his ministry; they were proud in their unbelief and arrogant in their rejection of Jesus]
3. Discuss verses 31–32. Who is the queen of the South and who were the men of Nineveh? How do they relate to Jesus' message concerning repentance and the coming judgment?
4. What do you think Jesus would say to our generation? Is our current generation seeking a sign or does it seek something else? Discuss among your group.
5. Even Christians fail to believe in Jesus, since we want to see a miracle occur in our own life. Do you sometimes treat God as a servant by expecting Him to show His works over His Word?