

Jesus struggled diligently, when he walked this earth, to try to convince mankind that he was the Son of God. But He responded very poorly to demands that He exercise His power. The Pharisees and teachers of the law would say to him, 'Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you.' He responded, 'A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah¹.' The Pharisees had already made up their minds about him, and they refused to believe that he had a special relationship with God. They could not or would not recognize His Goodness.

In an incident just prior to this², they watched Christ heal a man with a withered hand and immediately went out and plotted to kill him. Their definition of Good lay solely in their own interpretations and agendas. To them Good had to do with obeying their traditions concerning the Sabbath, so to heal a man of his suffering on that day was the ultimate evil, associated with Satan himself. How could they have missed the point so badly?

Christ refused to accommodate his adversaries with a sign. Christ knew that these people would not believe him no matter what He did; they just wanted him to slip up, to fail, so that they could regain control of the people.

In response, Christ was essentially saying, 'If you can't accept me on the basis of the Good that I represent, then a miracle or a sign will not do you any good³. I am enough of a sign for you.' "I am enough of a sign." He did not throw miracles around just for show.

To the people I meet I often ask the question, "Are His life and character enough of a sign for you?" I always hope that they answer "yes". Everyone wants to see miraculous signs today; but I don't think we understand this point. All other arguments aside, we simply should not need the signs. We spread the word of the actions and teachings of Christ, and we really don't need more evidence that he is the Son of God.

During His ministry, some people would not accept Christ even though they witnessed His great miracles and His teachings. For others, Christ was accepted immediately because of the signs that he performed, and their connection to the power of God.

But even the miracles were misleading to those who did not understand the Christ. When He miraculously fed five thousand⁴, the multitude tried to make him their earthly leader and king. But when Christ talked about being their *spiritual* leader⁵, many of his would-be disciples quit following him. Then Christ asked us if we, too, would leave Him.

We all had our doubts about the true nature of Christ in the beginning of His ministry, but we eventually accepted Him with all of our hearts. When Peter, our usual spokesman, emphatically proclaimed that He was the Christ, the Son of God⁶, we all agreed.

My own faith solidified as I determined that without a shadow of doubt that I loved Goodness and hated Evil⁷, with all of my heart. Then, realizing that God was the personally divine embodiment of this quality, I knew that I truly loved God. We come into contact with that Goodness through His Son, the Christ. And He is enough of a sign for us!

1. Matthew 12:38-39.
2. Matthew 12:9-14.
3. Consider the parallel between this and Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus, where Abraham states that "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." Luke 16:31.
4. Matthew 14:13.
5. Not His words in the great discourse on the bread of life, John 6:25ff.
6. Matthew 16:16 and John 11:27.
7. Amos 5:15 and Romans 12:9.