

Sign Seekers

I. Introduction:

- A. We know that God wants us to test all things (**I Thessalonians 5:21**).
 - 1. False teachers have always been around (**Jeremiah 14:14** and **II Peter 2:1-3**).
 - 2. God expects us not to be deceived by those teaching false doctrines (**Ephesians 5:6-11**).
- B. In general, it is not good to believe everything (**Proverbs 14:15**).
 - 1. There are people in the world that are just set on being deceptive and they are skilled at it (**Psalms 28:3** and **Proverbs 26:22-28**).
 - 2. With all of these things in mind, what about those that want unreasonable proof? What about those that are testing, but not to find truth (**Matthew 22:15-22**)? What about when proving all things is abused?

II. Body: **Mark 8:11-13**

- A. Their questioning and tempting of Jesus had impure motives (**Luke 11:53-54**).
 - 1. As a sect, most of the Pharisees were against Jesus (**Mark 3:1-6**).
 - 2. When they observed Jesus, it was to find an accusation against Him (**Luke 6:7**).
 - 3. Jesus was aware and warned about their motives (**Luke 12:1**).
- B. Their motive - tempting Him. What do you think about that word? It is the same Greek word translated “examine” (**II Corinthians 13:5**) and “tried” (**Revelation 2:2**).
 - 1. The Greek word “πειράζω” is broad in meaning: “to test (objectively), that is, endeavor, scrutinize, entice, discipline: - assay, examine, go about, prove, tempt (-er), try” (Strong’s # 3985).
 - 2. Their testing of Jesus was not just (**Mark 12:13**).
- C. Jesus refused to give a sign (**Luke 11:29-32**).
 - 1. He indicted that generation (**Matthew 11:16-19**, **Matthew 12:38-42**, **Mark 8:38**, and **Acts 2:40-41**).
 - 2. True faith comes from hearing the word of God (**Romans 10:14-17**).
 - 3. However, some will hear and still want to see (**John 4:46-50** and **John 11:45-53**).
 - a. Blessed are those who have not seen, yet believe (**John 20:24-29** and **I Peter 1:7-9**).
 - b. “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)” (**II Corinthians 5:7**).
 - 4. The truth is, seeing isn’t enough either for unbelievers (**John 6:2**; **6:30**, **John 7:31**, and **John 12:37-43**).

D. One more thing... For Christians today to consider... Is it possible that we think we have to prove things beyond what Jesus would do? We are to be ready to give an answer (**I Peter 3:15**), but to what extent (**Psalms 39:1** and **Colossians 4:5-6**)?

1. We have to remember that there are times wherein we cannot answer (**Matthew 7:6**, **II Timothy 2:14-16**, and **II Timothy 2:23**).
2. We must remember that it is the word of God that converts, not your skill or mine (**Psalms 19:7-8** and **Romans 1:16-17**).
3. It is not your task nor mine to do more than show someone the truth!

III. Conclusion: Jesus just left them (vs. 13; cf. **Matthew 15:14**).