

Revelation and Response

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 11:29-36



Big Idea

When you are confronted with Jesus there really is no option of neutrality. It throws you at once into a sort of crisis, a decision point. What am I going to do with Him? How am I going to respond to what God is revealing to me in Him?

(1) A Greater Sign (vv. 29-30)

Often, as we see here in our text, these sorts of requests for more signs come from a hardened heart. There's really something quite deceptively evil about it. They take on the disguise of an honest seeker, when really they are pushing off the decision and, in the end, unwilling to make it altogether. Such requests from people like this betray not an openness to the claims of Christ, but an opposition to them. That's the deception here. It looks like the opening of a door—"Show me more and I'll believe"—when truly it is a slamming of it in His face—"No matter what You show me, it will never be enough."

What I think we can draw from Jesus' logic here is that all of His other miracles and signs are intended to prepare for and lead into this one final "sign of Jonah". All of His other signs have only been little foretastes of the true and everlasting redemption He will accomplish only ultimately by way of His death for our sins and resurrection for our new life.

(2) A Greater Man (vv. 31-32)

With Jesus' reference to Himself as something greater than Solomon or Jonah, I think we are meant to see how the entirety of the OT has been preparing for His arrival. Just as all the signs Jesus performs are ultimately pointing toward and culminating in His work on the cross, so too we might say that all preceding revelation in the OT—whether it be through prophet, priest, or king, whether it be in the form of word or work, symbol or shadow—the entirety of the OT has been ultimately pointing toward and preparing us for Him. Solomon and Jonah were pictures of Christ in many ways, but they were not the Christ. They themselves were in need of the redemption only Jesus could bring.

(3) A Greater Light (vv. 33-36)

The basic sense here is this: He is the lamp that God has lit. He is shining out by way of these signs, His preaching and ongoing ministry. And the question that He's getting at, as we said at the first, is: What are you going to do with Him? If you put Him in the cellar or set Him under a basket, your whole life will go dark. But if you receive Him, if you respond to what is being revealed in and through Him, if you set your eyes on Him, well then your whole life will be filled with light. That is the idea.

Reflection Questions



- Have you ever asked God for a sign in some way? Would you say you were asking from an honest heart ready to follow, or from an evil heart reluctant to follow? What happened?
- Have you been looking to Jesus more as your Servant and Showman lately, or as your Savior and Lord? Honestly, would you rather Jesus fix your immediate circumstances or forgive you of your sin? Which seems more important and pressing to you?
- What has Jesus been revealing to you lately? What is He showing you? What has He been asking you to do? How have you been responding? Are you putting His lamp under a basket or on a stand? Are you in the dark or in the light? Why do you think there is really no option of neutrality?