

Believing is Seeing but Seeing is not Believing John 11:38-57

There is a familiar saying, "Seeing is believing", but in spiritual matters that is not necessarily true. Sometimes skeptics will say, "Show me a miracle and I'll believe." But even if they saw a genuine miracle, they'd still doubt it or look for a naturalistic explanation and find other reasons to continue in their unbelief.

John wrote his gospel, and especially the seven miraculous signs that Jesus performed before His death, "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). But not all who saw Jesus' miracles in person believed in Him, just as not all today who read the eyewitness accounts of Jesus' miracles believe in Him.

If any miracle should have resulted in every person present falling on his face and worshiping Jesus as God, it would have been the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

Here are three lessons we can take from this amazing account:

1-760-578-9733

Jeff Mercer:

- 1. If we believe in Christ, we will see the glory of God. Jesus told Martha that if she believed, she would see the glory of God (John 11:40). This probably refers back to verse 4, "*This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.*"
- 2. Jesus' miracles should result in faith in Him as Savior and Lord. John views faith as both initial and on-going. Martha clearly confesses her faith in Christ (John 11:27) "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world". But in verse 40 Jesus still challenges her to believe. Apply this to yourself. Don't stop with that initial belief.
- **3.** Seeing a miracle has occurred without believing results in further hardening of the heart. Unbelief is not based on insufficient evidence. Unbelief is based on selfish interests. Caiaphas, the high priest, discredited the eyewitnesses, *"You know nothing at all"* (John 11:49). Then he postured himself as being concerned for the people, *"...it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish."* (John 11:50). Do you think he was really concerned for the people or for his own self-interests and power under a watchful Roman governor?

In the meeting of the Jewish council they acknowledged that Jesus was performing many signs and the question of the moment was, *"What are we going to do?"* (John 11:47). It wasn't a bad question at all; one we should still ask ourselves. If we believe, we will see the glory of God.

-adapted from a lesson by Steven J. Cole in Bible.org

We have a commitment, empowered by the Holy Spirit, To give glory to God To be unified in reaching others To be living witnesses for Christ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6:18)

Pray for our Church family:

Thankfully, Mae Britton did not suffer a stroke. Tests have shown that she had extreme low sodium levels which caused her recent illness. Keep Mae in your prayers as she recovers. Those who mourn: Leo and Wanda Goodenough and Jerry Munn. Continue to pray for the improved health of: Ray & Sue Collins, Phyllis Francis, Leo & Wanda Goodenough, Delores Jensen, Betty Johnson, Brenda Jones, John Leonard, Roy & Lucy McDonald, Jeff & Michelle Mercer, Jerry & Camelia Munn, Dail Paramore, Francis Pati, Jim Scott, Lorenzo Serrano, and Joyce Winings.

Pray for family & friends:

Pray for the improved health of Mary Fields, Keith & Lisa Britton, Delores' brother Len, Marjorie Counts, Stuart's cousin Joanna, Kathy's husband Kevin and cousin Bob, Brianna Schaldweiler, Robert Gray, Derek Fields, Dail's friend Marie, Brenda's son Uriah, Rossie Stansbury, and Wanda's daughter Lynette.

First responders: Please remember to pray for those who are serving their communities during this difficult time. Phyllis Francis' extended family member Alisha K. (EMT). Dail Paramore and Stuart Huggins family members: Joanna Carter (Nurse), Luther Carter (Naval Officer), Jody Huggins and Jory Huggins (both are MI Patrol Officers). Jerry Munn's sister, Dr. Janice Massey of N.C. If you have family members or friends you would like to add to this prayer list, please let Kathy know.

Military:

Jeff & Michelle Mercer's son-in-law Brandon Deusenberry, Jodi Keeth's brother-in-law Tony Cairo, Glenn Fields and T. Burgess.

Prayer Warriors Corner

Dear God, help me to love as Jesus taught. Help me to remember that when I was unlovable, Jesus died for me. Through Him I pray. Amen.

Power For Today: Sharon Forster; 10/5/2017

Read: Genesis 38:1-18

News:

To her reward- Many members will remember Grace Baker, Lucy's mother. Grace died suddenly on September 2, in her 92nd year. We thank God she was mobile and involved to her last day.

Colorado Bound: "I will be leaving the end of the month. My new address is: 2840 Arnold Ave Monument, Colorado 80132. I will be back for a visit, I'm sure, but not in the summer time!!! When I come back I will hopefully be here on a weekend and will come to services if I can. Take care and stay safe. Thank you, God Bless, Gail Smith

"May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other." (Genesis 31:49)

Scripture readings: Matthew 16:1-6

The Pharisees and the Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red, 'and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away.

Sermon topic:

"Give us a sign!"



Birthdays:

9/1
9/13
9/17
9/27



Anniversaries:

L & W Goodenough: 9/11

I know Love abounds among us but unfortunately we will not have worship at the building during this challenging time.

In the meantime, the expenses of maintaining the building, yard care, property insurance, utilities, etc. continue.

If you can continue your financial support, please mail it to: Palm Springs Church of Christ P.O. Box 2267 Palm Springs, CA 92263 (Checks or money orders - do not send cash)

God bless us all during this time and bless our families too.

We have individually wrapped **communion supplies** available. If you would like to pick some up, please contact Kathy and they will be bagged and ready for you when you arrive (Monday - Thursday 9:30 - 12:00).

Community Food Bank continues to need support. They are averaging 200 people per week during this time. Thank you for your generosity, it is very much appreciated.

Sermons on YouTube: For the most recent locally recorded sermon, simply go to the Palm Springs Church of Christ webpage and click on the "sermons" category at the top of the page.

kttp.//www.crenshawchurchofchrist.com Tri Lakes Church of Christ in Monument, Colorado