

“When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had arrived, they came and started to argue with him. Testing him, they demanded that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority.” Mark 8:11 NLT

lectio // Mark 8:1-13

What exactly were the Pharisees looking for? Mark's gospel, his account, is FILLED with miracles. Jesus had done everything from converting the chemical nature of water into wine, cloned loaves of bread and fish to feed thousands, instantly calmed storms and stopped the waves a ready in motion (defying a law of physics), healing people's bodies and ultimately raising the dead back to life! What MORE could they possibly have wanted? Oh, they didn't "witness" those miracles personally. They weren't able to "test" them or explain them away. And, sadly, the miracles had NOTHING to do with them. They didn't benefit from the nor did they get credit for them happening. Some guy can't just come into town doing signs and wonders without the proper approvals and a little something-something on the side for the guys who've done all the work for God thus far. That's just RUDE, right? And this miracle maker was giving away all these benefits to the wrong people. It should be the elite class, the wealthy, the connected, the people who really make things happen in the city. He shouldn't be wasting these miracles in the poor, the unknowns. Summary: Do something for us, make it right by those who deserve such things. Do you start to realize why Jesus said, "I won't give this generation [entitled religious leaders] any such sign."

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Dad,

I've only seen this kind of attitude show up in my life a couple of times. And, I've seen it show up in the attitude of some of my church friends. It's pretty stinky. I start comparing what someone else received whether is monetary or miracle - I sink into, "what about me?" Do something cool for me. I want a prophetic word or I want a financial blessing. Why did they get an RV or Barbecue gifted to them? I feel awful treating you like a one-armed-bandit, feeding good works into the slot and expecting a big win. YUK. I am so sorry for those moments of selfishness. I see myself reflected in the religious leaders, demanding a sign for all the WRONG reasons. Please help me grow up to be a mature believer, not a whining white-washed tombstone.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root