



August 19

The Destinies of Sign-Seekers and God-Obeyers

“Blessed is Yahweh your God, who delighted in you, to set you on the throne of Israel. Because Yahweh loved Israel forever, therefore made he you king, to do justice and righteousness.” ...the queen of Sheba...to king Solomon. – 1 Kings 4:9-10

[Matthew 12:38-50] Then certain of the scribes and Pharisees answered, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”

But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign will be given it but the sign of Jonah the prophet. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up in the judgment with this generation, and will condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, someone greater than Jonah is here. The queen of the south will rise up in the judgment with this generation, and will condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, someone greater than Solomon is here. But the unclean spirit, when he is gone out of the man, passes through waterless places, seeking rest, and doesn’t find it. Then he says, ‘I will return into my house from which I came out,’ and when he

Behold, someone greater than Solomon is here

has come back, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes, and takes with himself seven other spirits more evil than he is, and they enter in and dwell there. The last state of that man becomes worse than the first. Even so will it be also to this evil generation.”

While he was yet speaking to the multitudes, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, seeking to speak to him and they could not come near him for the crowd. One said to him, “Behold, your mother and your brothers stand outside, seeking to speak to you.”

But he answered him who spoke to him, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” He stretched out his hand towards his disciples, and said, “Behold, my mother and my brothers! For whoever hears the word of God, and does the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother.” [Luke 8:19-21]

1. What signs have you requested from God? How was this different than just praying?
2. Is “the unclean spirit” related to yesterday’s “strong man”? How does this apply to you?
3. Jesus, I want to be your brother, sister and mother, help me to do God’s will today by...