

Jesus' First Trial—Part 6
"Spiritual Adultery"
Matthew 12:38-42

I. The Pharisees' Self-Incrimination (v. 38)

- a. **Teacher** (*didaskalos* / *διδάσκαλος*) = **teacher**, instructor (Matt. 10:24-25; 23:8; John 1:38; 8:4; 13:13-14; 20:16; Acts 13:1; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:3; Heb. 5:12; James 3:1)
- b. "It's better to keep your mouth shut and risk being thought a fool; than to open your mouth and remove all doubt!" (cf. Prov. 17:28)
- c. They had seen and heard so much of God's revelation, but they did not have eyes to see or ears to hear; so they wanted "a sign from heaven" (Luke 11:16; cf. Matt. 4:5-7; 16:1; Josh. 10:12-13; Ex. 14:13-31; Deut. 18:14-22)
- d. Jesus did not grant their request for two main reasons:
 - i. **U** _____ (cf. Matt. 11:4-6)
 - ii. **D** _____ (cf. Luke 16:31ff)

II. Jesus' Charge of Spiritual Adultery (vs. 39-42)

- a. Spiritual Adultery is putting ANYTHING ahead of Jesus Christ James 4:4; cf. Jer. 3:14; 5:7-8; Lev. 20:5; Num. 25:1; Jer. 3:20; Hos. 1:2; 2:2-13; 4:10, 18; 5:3; 9:1; Ezek. 23:1ff.; Isa. 57:3)
 - i. Especially Idols of the Heart: Power, Prestige, Pleasure, Prosperity, Peace, Program, and Protection.
- b. Jesus promised them just one more sign; the sign of Jonah which refers to the sign of His resurrection! (cf. Jonah 1:17; 2:10; Matt. 16:4)
 - i. Jesus makes it clear that Jonah's account of 3 days and nights in a great fish is not allegorical; it is real.
 1. **sea monster = kētos (κῆτος)** = "big fish, huge fish—a large sea monster"

- ii. Just as the Hebrew understanding of any part of a day counts as a whole day, makes Jesus' 3 days in the grave accurate (cf. 1 Sam. 30:12-13; Esther 4:16; 5:1; Matt. 27:63-64)
- c. The key is Jesus' Resurrection!
- d. He gives two examples to prove just how adulterous the scribes and Pharisees hearts actually were:
 - i. **The N** _____. (cf. Matt. 11:20-24; Acts 6:7)
 - ii. **The Q** _____. (1 Kings 10:10 LSB)
- e. Jesus' point was that these pagan Gentiles responded with repentance and faith to far less revelation provided through mere mortals: Jonah and Solomon.
 - i. But the Jewish Religious Leaders had the Son of God and the power of the Holy Spirit right in front of them; ***something greater!***
 - ii. And these Gentiles will condemn these Leaders at the judgment!