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Sermon Notes

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## **Even Then, They Still Would Not Believe**

**Matthew 16:1-4**

### Introduction

There are so many amazing things about Jesus' brief ministry on earth

For one thing, how could He change the course of history in three short years? Without traveling to Rome, the great seat of power in the ancient world, without inventing anything or writing any book, simply by His deeds, His words, and His character, and especially by His death and resurrection... He changed the entire course of history, and that is remarkable.

His miracles were remarkable too. How could He do all those astonishing signs and wonders? Changing water into aged wine in an instant; speaking to a churning storm and the wind and the waves obeying the voice of a man; calling to a man dead, and buried for four days, and raising Him to life; walking on water; driving out powerful demons with a single word; reading people's minds... absolutely incredible!!

But of all the amazing things about Jesus' brief time on earth, one of the most amazing is the fact that His own people saw these miracles and still they would not believe

One day, Jesus came upon a man who had born blind. Never before in history had anyone been able to open the eyes of such a man. Jesus simply spit on the ground, made mud, smeared it on the man's eyes. The man was taken to a pool, where he washed and his sight was perfect.

The man was seriously questioned by the Jewish authorities, who had already decided that Jesus **COULD NOT BE** the Messiah... they grilled this man mercilessly, and the interrogation came to an amazing point of clarity. This blind man could see more clearly than any of them what was going on:

***John 9:30-34 The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes.***

Literally: "Here is THE amazing thing!!" It is not so amazing that God could heal a blind man... what is truly amazing is that, when He does, His own people do not believe Him!!

What will it take to get you to believe? What sign would Jesus need to do to prove to you that He is the Son of God, that His death on the cross is sufficient to cover all your sins, that His resurrection from the dead means you never need fear death again?

What would it take? What sign would convince you?

In today's text, we have the ugly unbelief of the Jewish leaders put on display... and Jesus' dignified way of dealing with it

## I. Unbelief Puts Jesus on Trial Again

### A. Pharisees and Sadducees: Uncommon Bedfellows United by a Common Hatred

1. Ordinarily despised each other... fought against each other
  - a. In the book of Acts, when Paul was on trial, he shrewdly kindled a conflict between the Pharisees and Sadducees on the issue of the resurrection of the dead
  - b. The dispute was so violent that Paul's case was never decided
2. HOWEVER: Bound together by their common hatred of Jesus
3. Pharisees
  - a. Usually working class, making a living (like Paul) from a trade
  - b. More conservative and fundamental theologically
    - i) Believed in the supernatural...
    - ii) in the resurrection from the dead and
    - iii) angels and demons
  - c. BUT held that Rabbinic tradition was of equal authority to the Scripture
  - d. Strongly separatistic... zealously desired to purify Judaism from all Gentile influences
4. Sadducees
  - a. Generally aristocratic... made very wealthy by their corrupt involvement in and profit from the temple sacrificial system; made wealthy by running money changing tables at the temple
  - b. Cared nothing for rabbinic tradition or the scriptures
  - c. They had no problem making religious, moral, political or cultural compromises to further their interests
  - d. They did whatever was best for their earthly interests... pragmatists, they were powerful dealmakers

- e. Theologically liberal, they denied the supernatural... miracles, angels, demons, and the resurrection from the dead
- f. Since they denied the resurrection, they had to get all life had to offer now, and didn't care what rules they had to break to get it

5. What united them?

- a. A common hatred of the light

***John 3:20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.***

- b. Therefore a common hatred of Jesus

Illus. WWII saw strange alliances... Finland and Nazi Germany were strange allies because of their common hatred for Soviet Russia; meanwhile the US and Great Britain allied with their natural enemy, Soviet Russia, because of their common hatred for Nazi Germany; in China, even Nationalist leader Chiang Kai Shek and Communist revolutionary Mao Zedong at least outwardly cooperated in their mutual war against the Japanese who had invaded China in 1932

A shared enemy makes strange allies

- c. Gospel record their common goal: to murder the Son of God

***Matthew 12:14 the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.***

The high priest and his associates were all Sadducees, who actually brought about the killing

B. Their Unbelieving Demand: A Sign from Heaven

***Vs. 1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.***

1. Jewish superstition: signs from earth vs. signs from heaven
  - a. They believed the devil could counterfeit signs on earth, but could never counterfeit a sign from heaven
  - b. How faulty! The devil is actually the "Prince of the power of the air"
2. What is a "sign from heaven"?
  - a. Let Christ call down a pillar of fire or cloud or descend on a mountaintop like at Sinai
  - b. Let Christ cause manna fall from heaven as Moses did

- c. Or let Christ cause the sun and moon to stop, to stand still in the sky for a day as Joshua did
- d. Or let him make the stars fight for Israel against her enemies as Deborah and Barak did to Sisera and his Canaanite army
- e. Or let him hurl fire and brimstone down on the Romans as God did to Sodom and Gomorrah
- f. Or at least let Christ call down fire to burn up a sacrifice as Elijah did on Mount Carmel

3. They wanted a sign from heaven

C. Their Purpose: To Disqualify Jesus

- 1. As if, had he done all this they would gladly have believed in Jesus and fallen on their faces in worship
- 2. NO! They just wanted to disqualify Jesus

***Vs. 1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.***

- a. The word “tested” shows their true intention... not to worship Him but to disqualify Him
- b. Later, when they tested him again by asking Him about paying taxes to Caesar, He called a spade a spade

***Matthew 22:18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?"***

- 3. This was not an honest inquiry by some people genuinely seeking truth, willing to believe if just given enough evidence
- 4. “Doubting Thomas” made a test for Jesus... and Jesus met it!!

***John 20:25 So the other disciples told [Thomas], "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."***

***John 20:26-28 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"***

- 5. Some people needed even less of a sign than that!!



**John 1:47-51** *When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." 48 "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." 50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." 51 He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

6. But these people wouldn't believe no matter what Jesus did, as we shall see

## II. Christ's Analysis: Look at the Signs of the Times

**Vs. 2-3** *He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' 3 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.*

Old Nautical Saying: "Red sky in morning, sailor take warning; red sky at night, sailor's delight."

There is a definite scientific reason for this truism

Picture yourself on a ship in the middle of a mid-latitude ocean. There the wind (and thus storm path) is from west to east. It is morning and you are watching the sunrise. It is red. Since it is morning you are looking east, and the red sky indicates that there is high pressure there. Because you are in the mid-latitudes, the high is moving eastward--away from you. That could only mean that a low, and very likely an associated storm, is moving toward you from the west. Sailor take warning! Now picture yourself watching the sunset from the ship, and the western sky is red. That means that an area of high pressure is to your west, the westerlies are moving it toward you, and good weather is on the way--sailor's delight!

Other weather proverbs collected over the years:

- *When the chairs squeak, it's of rain they speak.*
- *When clouds look like black smoke a wise man will put on his cloak.*
- *When stars shine clear and bright, we will have a very cold night.*
- *Chimney smoke descends, our nice weather ends.*
- *When leaves show their undersides, be very sure that rain betides.*
- *When the sun shines while raining, it will rain the same time again tomorrow.*

Jesus is saying that people have common sense about the weather patterns based on years of observation, of living in God's world

So they should also be able to read the signs of the times

#### A. The River of Signs Already Done

##### 1. A River of Signs

***Matthew 4:23-24*** *Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them.*

***Matthew 9:35*** *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.*

***Matthew 12:15*** *Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick*

***Matthew 14:35-36*** *And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him 36 and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.*

Perhaps, you may think Jesus didn't do any miracles in front of His enemies... nothing could be farther from the truth

***Matthew 12:9-14*** *Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, 10 and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" 11 He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." 13 Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. 14 But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.*

##### 2. The Purpose of the Signs

***John 5:36*** *"I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me.*

***John 14:11*** *Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.*

a. The signs were clear evidence of the coming of the Kingdom of God

- b. They were proof that God was with Jesus in a way that He was with no one else in history
- c. They were evidence of Jesus' power to forgive sins
- d. Most of all, they were proof that He was exactly who He claimed to be... the Son of God

### 3. The Effectiveness of the Signs for the Elect

***John 2:11 This, the first of his miraculous signs (changing water into wine), Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.***

***John 3:2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."***

***John 7:31 Still, many in the crowd put their faith in him. They said, "When the Christ comes, will he do more miraculous signs than this man?"***

**[the man born blind] *John 9:25 One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"***

***We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. 32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."***

***34 To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.***

***35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"***

***36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."***

***37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." 38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.***

Again and again, God used the miracles Jesus did to prove His deity and His power to forgive sins satisfactorily to His elect... they saw the miracles, heard His words, and needed no more evidence

BUT

### 4. The Ineffectiveness of the Signs for the Spiritually Blind

- a. Jesus' enemies saw many of His signs and concluded He was doing miracles only by the power of Satan

- b. It did not matter how many signs He did, they would NEVER believe in Him

***Matthew 11:20-24 Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. 21 "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. 24 But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."***

The clearest indication of this is the summary statement in John 12:

***John 12:37-40 Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. 38 This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: "Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" 39 For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: 40 "He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn-- and I would heal them."***

If someone's heart is hardened by sin, and if God does not grant saving grace, it doesn't matter how many miracles Jesus did, they would NEVER believe... only their hearts would grow harder and harder, and their judgment greater and greater

Illus. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a witty, clever Frenchman named **Francois Marie Arouet**, was able to defeat anyone in a debate. There was never a single time that anyone bested him in a battle of wits or of words... he was brilliant, incisive, cynical, sarcastic, and could lay people in shreds with his mind and words... He was a thorough skeptic of all things religious and spiritual, and did what he could to mock the Christian faith and deride all aspects of the supernatural. He was better known by his pen name, Voltaire

Concerning miracles, he said this:

**"Even if a miracle should be wrought in the open marketplace before a thousand sober witnesses, I would rather mistrust my senses than admit a miracle."**

DID YOU HEAR THAT???!!! No matter how many miracles Jesus did for Voltaire, he still would never believe

## B. Unbelievers Exerting Daily Faith

1. Jesus lays them open with His incisive words



**Vs. 2-3 "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' 3 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.**

2. In effect He says you use your senses of observation to make predictions about the future ALL THE TIME... you believe those signs in the physical sky

These Jews knew how to read the clouds and wind to predict fair or foul weather

Just like we can tell when fall is coming by the changing leaves and migrating birds and shortening days and cooling weather... we know that winter is coming

3. Why not believe the clear signs of the times??

Illus. Hurricane in Massachusetts... clear warnings, predictions for days in advance; everyone believed it, and acted accordingly... long lines at the supermarket buying canned goods, flashlights and batteries; people put duct tape in x's on their plate-glass windows... they BELIEVED the coming storm and acted in accordance with their FAITH

I marveled that they took so little care for their souls and for the coming judgment day!!!

### C. Unbelievers Daily Hardening their Hearts

1. Instead of seeing God's awesome works around them, unbelievers daily harden their hearts

**Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.**

2. Satan blinds them to the clear truth: Jesus is the Son of God and will either be your Savior or your Judge

**2 Cor. 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

- a. How many more miracles did Jesus have to do?
- b. How many more prophecies did He have to fulfill?
- c. What more could He have done to prove Himself?

### III. Christ's Word and Action of Judgment

**Matthew 16:4 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.**

#### A. The Judge's Assessment: A Wicked and Adulterous Generation

1. Jesus marvels over their hardness of hearts!! Here they are, for the second time in Matthew's gospel, asking for yet another miraculous sign
2. He has shown them many good works from the Father, and they want to kill Him
3. Their hearts are perverse, and apart from sovereign grace they will NEVER believe in Him
4. "Wicked" speaks of their internal defilement... their evil nature, their perverted hearts
5. "Adulterous" speaks of the fact that they claimed to be God's Holy People, in effect His "bride"... but they had sold out to the world, to sin, to covetousness, to other gods

#### B. The Judge's Decree: No New "Sign from Heaven" Given

***A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it***

1. He will not be a traveling miracle show
2. During Jesus trial before King Herod, that evil king wanted desperately to see Jesus do some kind of miracle
3. There was no television, no movies... this was nothing more than entertainment for these people
4. Jesus utterly refused

#### C. The Judge's Action: End of Discussion

***Vs. 4 Jesus then left them and went away.***

1. When the Judge's gavel goes down, the case is closed
2. He has the authority to end this discussion, and he ends it

### IV. Christ's Final Sign, Given and Rejected

What then is the final sign He will give this wicked and adulterous generation??

#### A. The Sign of Jonah: Resurrection

1. He calls it "the sign of Jonah"

2. What was the sign of Jonah? Simply put, it was Jesus' astonishing resurrection from the dead

***Matthew 12:39-41 He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.<sup>40</sup> For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.***

3. The empty tomb would stand as the greatest miracle in history
  - a. An incredible sign of the power of Christ
  - b. A claim to have total power over death... the ability to rise from the dead by Himself... to lay down His life and then take it up again

***John 10:17-18 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life-- only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."***

- c. No one else in history has had this power... it should have been enough to convince a skeptical nation of Jesus' unique personhood... of His claim to be the Son of God
4. Again... it is just a sign... it points the way to a future in which death itself will be defeated forever by the power of Christ

#### B. The Second Sign of Jonah: Preaching

***Matthew 12:41 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.***

1. Jesus went beyond merely the fact of Jonah's "resurrection" from the fish on the third day
2. He discussed the power of Jonah's preaching
3. The Jews would have BOTH the evidence of the empty tomb AND the powerful preaching of the apostles as signs
4. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter and the Apostles would preach the resurrection in the streets of Jerusalem

***Acts 2:32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.***

5. After healing the lame beggar, Peter and John would preach the resurrection again at the Temple

***Acts 3:13-15 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. <sup>14</sup> You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. <sup>15</sup> You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.***

6. After being arrested for the preaching, Peter and John would preach the resurrection again at the Sanhedrin

***Acts 4:9-10 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.***

7. When arrested again one chapter later, the apostles preached the resurrection to the Sanhedrin again

***Acts 5:30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead-- whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.***

8. As a matter of fact, the Apostles hardly ever opened their mouth to a crowd in the book of Acts without preaching the resurrection
9. This was the greatest sign Jesus ever gave the world: a resurrection seen by Twelve Apostles and over 500 eyewitnesses who clearly told the world what they had seen
10. WAS IT ENOUGH TO CONVINCING UNBELIEVING ISRAEL?? NO!!!

### C. The Sign of Jonah Rejected

***Matthew 12:41 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.***

1. Jesus clearly predicted that His resurrection would not be enough to convince the Jews

Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus... Lazarus, suffering in hell, wants to go warn his brothers:

***Luke 16:30-31 "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"***

“THEY WILL NOT BE CONVINCED EVEN IF SOMEONE RISES FROM THE DEAD”

2. So it was...

The chief priests set guards to prevent Jesus' resurrection... they could not; they testified concerning the angel moving the stone and the graveclothes being empty

Did this overwhelming evidence convince the Jewish leaders Jesus had risen from the dead??  
NO!!

***Matthew 28:11-15*** *some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup> When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup> telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' <sup>14</sup> If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." <sup>15</sup> So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.*

## V. The Future, Final, and Most Terrifying Sign

### A. They Will Get Their Wish... Too Late

1. They asked for a sign in the heavens that Jesus is the Son of God
2. Jesus predicted they would get their wish, but by then it would be too late
3. Jesus would give the entire world a clear display of His deity in the clouds, in the sky for everyone to see

***Matthew 24:30-31*** *"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.*

### B. "In the Future You Will See"

1. He predicted the sign of the Son of Man at His trial before the High Priest and the Jewish leaders
2. He clearly said they would see the sign of the Son of Man in the sky
3. Listen to His words as He was on trial for His life

***Matthew 26:63-64*** *The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." <sup>64</sup> "Yes, it is as you say,"*

***Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."***

This is a clear prediction of the Second Coming of Christ... the clearest evidence there will ever be of the Deity of Christ; a direct quotation of Daniel's "Son of Man" vision in Daniel 7; when Jesus comes back to earth in power and great glory, with the heavenly armies behind Him, to conquer the earth, rescue the elect and destroy Satan and all Satan's people

### C. End Result of Unbelief: Eternal Mourning

1. Jesus said, when they see the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, they would mourn... they would MOURN for the misery about to come on them

***Revelation 1:7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.***

The unbelieving Jews wanted a sign in the heavens... they will get it, but too late to save their souls

2. NOW IS THE DAY OF FAITH!!! NOW IS THE TIME TO REPENT AND BELIEVE...

***2 Corinthians 6:2 he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.***

## VI. Application

### A. Come to Christ!!

1. What will it take to convince you?
2. Has Jesus done enough signs and wonders to persuade you to trust Him with your soul?
3. Do you need more evidence? Or is the Scripture's clear testimony to Christ enough?

### B. Believers: Believe and Trust MORE

1. You learn scientific principles from everyday life... not just about the weather, but also about the way God deals with us in wisdom, gentleness and love
2. Can you trust Him in the middle of your trials? Trust Him that He knows what He's doing? Trust Him because He's earned the right to be trusted by you?

### C. Be Amazed at the Hardness of Heart Around You

#### 1. Be amazed at Voltaire's statement

**“Even if a miracle should be wrought in the open marketplace before a thousand sober witnesses, I would rather mistrust my senses than admit a miracle.”**

#### 2. Be amazed at relatives who have heard the gospel again and again and yet still refuse to come

#### 3. Be amazed at sinners who keep getting drunk, yet refusing to stop before it's too late

#### 4. Be amazed at people you evangelize with clear evidence of Jesus' being the Messiah promised by God... Isaiah 53, prophecy of Christ's death for sinners, Psalm 22 on the crucifixion; Psalm 16 on the resurrection; the evidence from John 20 of the graveclothes and the empty tomb... you give them your own testimony of

#### 5. BE AMAZED at how hard the human heart is... then

#### 6. BE INCREDIBLY THANKFUL TO GOD THAT HE SAVED YOU

a. He took out your heart of stone and gave you a heart of flesh

b. He opened your blind eyes and showed you the glory of Christ

c. He gave you repentance; He gave you faith

d. TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

#### 7. Then Go pray for that relative, that co-worker, that neighbor... who is stubbornly resisting the gospel... God is able to CURE them of unbelief

#### 8. TRUST HIM TO DO IT!!