

- I) V27-28 INTRO: And it happened as He spoke these things that a certain woman from the crowd
  - a) AS JESUS IS SPEAKING: A woman in the crowd is struck by His power and authority
    - 1) Her exuberant praise was very typical for her times
  
- II) THE WOMAN: Was thinking of how great Jesus is, and what an honor it would be to be his mother
  - a) AT ONE LEVEL: Her recognition of how blessed Mary was is understandable
    - 1) Mary's cousin Elizabeth had said something similar when she spoke to Mary
    - 2) Lu 1:42 She spoke out with a loud voice and said Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!
    - 3) Lu 1:48 (Mary's response) (God my Savior has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed
    - 4) IN THIS: Mary was recognizing that she had been given the greatest blessing imaginable
  
- III) WITH THIS IN MIND: It is understandable that the woman in the crowd would say this
  - a) YET: Jesus corrects her because what she says is true, but *with the wrong emphasis*
    - 1) HE CORRECTS HER: Because she has placed the emphasis on the wrong person
    - 2) It emphasizes Mary's blessedness, but de-emphasizes Jesus' ministry
    - 3) IT ALSO: Fails to consider the fact that He came to bless all people, not just His mother
  
- IV) ON TOP OF THIS: Jesus was not about to receive praise through His mother
  - a) To do so would be to depreciate Him and points praise to the wrong person
    - 1) He would allow no confusion when it comes to praise and honor: He receives it
    - 2) Is 42:8 I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.
  
- V) THIS ACTUALLY: Emphasizes Jesus' words found in V23
  - a) There is a spiritual line drawn, and we are found on one side or the other
    - 1) POINT: Spiritual relationship with Jesus is more important than natural
  
- VI) V28 BUT HE SAID: More than that blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it
  - a) POINT: My family is much larger than what you think
    - 1) Loving obedience to His word brings you into His family
    - 2) Mk 3:32-35 A multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You." But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?" And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever *does the will of God* is My brother and My sister and mother."
      - 3) Jas 1:22-25 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.
  
- VII) V29 AND: While the crowds were thickly gathered together He began to say This is an evil
  - a) WHEN JESUS SPOKE OF ETERNAL THINGS: Some inevitably desired to argue
    - 1) Matthew tells us that scribes and Pharisees actually had asked Jesus for a sign (Mt 12:38)
    - 2) Scribes and Pharisees may have made up a *special investigating committee*
    - 3) This demand revealed their hard hearts: They were not interested in Truth, but in quarrels

- I) **DURING JESUS' DAY, SCRIBES WERE EXPERTS: On the Law of Moses**
  - a) They were to be at least 30 years old, had spent many years intensely studying the Scriptures, especially the Mosaic Law, and had memorized the traditions set forth by the elders over the centuries
    - 1) **THIS IS WHY THEY QUOTED AUTHORITIES:** And did not offer their own understandings
    - 2) Mt 7:29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.
  
- II) **IT IS THE SCRIBES: Who say to Him *Show us a sign:* (Unbelievers demand signs, not Christians)**
  - a) **IN REALITY:** They are demanding proof of His claim to being their Messiah
    - 1) **COMMON:** 1 Co 1:22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom
  
- III) **ON THE ONE HAND: Signs were part of Jesus' validation of His ministry**
  - a) **IN THE FIFTH CHAPTER OF JOHN:** John cited *4 testimonies* of Jesus' ministry credentials
    - 1) Jn 5:33 You have sent to *John* and he has testified to the truth.
    - 2) Jn 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.
    - 3) Jn 5:37 And *the Father* who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,
    - 4) Jn 5:39 You diligently study *the Scriptures* because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,
  
- IV) **V29 JESUS' PROBLEM WITH THEIR REQUEST: Is that it is made with insincerity**
  - a) They are actually dishonoring Him, not seeking Him
    - 1) **JESUS' RESPONSE:** This is an evil generation (V29)
    - 2) **EVIL:** How is it that they are evil? They are constantly tempting God
    - 3) Mt 4:7 It is written again, You shall not tempt the Lord your God.
  
- V) **QUESTION: Why did Jesus call them evil**
  - a) If they were faithfully following God's Word, they would have accepted Him
    - 1) Jn 5:46-47 If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for *he wrote about me*. But since you do not believe *what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?*"
    - 2) 1 Jn 2:23 *No one who denies the Son has the Father;* whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.
  
- VI) **V30 FOR: As Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites so also the Son of Man will be to this generation**
  - a) **WHAT WILL BE THIS GENERATION'S SIGN:** *His Resurrection*
  
- VII) **REMEMBER: Jonah was commissioned to preach in the great Assyrian city of Nineveh**
  - a) Jonah 1:2-3 (God said) Go to the great city of Nineveh and *preach against it*, because its wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.
  
- VIII) **DURING HIS ESCAPE FROM THE LORD: A storm arose**
  - a) Jonah revealed why the storm had come, and told the sailors to throw him overboard *to die*
    - 1) Jonah 1:17 But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish *three days and three nights*.

I) HE HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK

a) Jonah 2:1 From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.

b) Jonah 2:7-10 When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD." And the LORD commanded the fish, *and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.*

II) JESUS' POINT: His resurrection was *the greatest sign* of who He was

a) Ro 1:4 (Jesus) through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God *by his resurrection from the dead*: Jesus Christ our Lord.

III) V31 THE QUEEN OF THE SOUTH: Will rise up *in the judgment* with the men of this generation

a) The Queen of Sheba traveled many miles to hear the Wisdom of Solomon

1) 1 Ki 10:6-9 She said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard. Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom! Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.

2) SHE: Will rise up in the judgment as a witness to the greatness of God and Solomon's wisdom

3) YET: My message is greater: Not only wisdom, but salvation from sin is in My message

IV) V32 THE MEN OF NINEVEH: Will rise up *in the judgment* with this generation and condemn it

a) The men of Nineveh, who repented at Jonah's message of destruction, will be their judges

1) Jonah 3:5-6 The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat down in the dust.

V) V33 NO ONE: When he has lit a lamp puts it in a secret place or under a basket but on a lampstand

a) People without Christ live in darkness: No spiritual enlightenment, or illumination

1) 2 Co 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 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.

VI) V33 THE LAMP: Is not put in a secret place but on a lampstand

a) God's people are to reveal God's light to those who are engulfed in darkness

1) We are light: We give the light, the gospel of Jesus Christ (though not all like us for it!)

2) Jn 8:12 Jesus said I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life

VII) V34-36 THE LAMP: Of the body is the eye. Therefore when your eye is good your whole body also is

a) Jesus' point: Singleness of vision produces Proper priorities

1) If your eye is good (Single, devoted) you will have God's light to lead you

2) If your eye is bad (Evil, unhealthy, unfocused) you will have spiritual blindness

3) 1 Jn 1:6-7 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.