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## *Devotion for October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021*

*"And the Pharisees and the Sadducees came, and to test Him they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, 'When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given except the sign of Jonah.' So He left them and departed."*

*- Matthew 16:1-4*

**If you were a Boy Scout you probably learned the saying, "Red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky in morning, sailor's warning."** That's where I learned it, but after reading this message, it is likely that the Boy Scouts got it from Jesus. Jesus used it to point out something that just about everyone would know, the signs of the weather.

Jesus pointed out to the Pharisees and the Sadducees that they weren't interpreting the signs of the times. I think Jesus was referring to all of the signs He had been doing: healing the sick, casting out demons, the feeding of the 5,000, and His teachings. The book of John in the Bible has many of the signs Jesus did in His ministry. John said it this way:

*"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:30-31)*

They didn't see that their long-awaited Messiah was standing right in front of them. They were pressing and trying to test the Son of God by asking for a sign. They asked Jesus for a sign from heaven, which He had already provided many times in His ministry. Jesus called them an evil and adulterous generation and said the only sign they would get would be the sign of Jonah.

So, what is this sign of Jonah? Jonah emerged alive after three days in the belly of a fish. The sign Jesus is referring to is His future death and resurrection where He would be raised from the dead on the third day, Easter morning. This is the ultimate sign of who Jesus was and is, His Father in heaven giving validation to His only Son and all that He had done by raising Him from the dead. The Pharisees and the Sadducees would see this sign in their future.

Sometimes we look for signs from God, don't we? We say to ourselves, why doesn't God do this or do that? Why doesn't He just stop all evil from happening? God, show me that You are active and countering evil.

Who are we that we can press God for signs? Who were the Pharisees and the Sadducees that they could press the Son of God for a sign as a test? We should remember what Jesus said to Satan when tempted in the wilderness:

*"You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."  
([Deuteronomy 6:16](#); [Matthew 4:7](#))*

Besides, God has already given us the sign of Jonah. Jesus has risen from the dead and lives. The Messiah has come as promised, our Savior lives. Through Him we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life, if we believe in Him. Jesus promised to come back on the Last Day to judge all of mankind and cast Satan and his followers into the eternal lake of fire. All sin and evil will go away and we as believers will live with God forever.

Let us pray. Father in heaven, thank You for sending Your only Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin and this evil and adulterous generation that we live in. Help us to boldly share the Good News that the Savior of all mankind lives, so that many more will be saved before the Last Day. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*In Christ Jesus,  
Rev. John Kyle, Associate Pastor  
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