

***The Generation that Saw and Heard Jesus
and the Audience on Pentecost***

The generation that heard Jesus was given the most powerful of evidence

- Though they were given this evidence, few seriously considered it! (Jn 1:10-11)

The generation that heard Jesus was given the most powerful of evidence

- John 1:10-11 - He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

The generation that heard Jesus was given the most powerful of evidence

- The problem was not with the evidence but the willingness to think and search!
- Jesus often pointed to that unwillingness. (Lk 11:29-32; Jn 5:36, 39-40)

The generation that heard Jesus was given the most powerful of evidence

- Luke 11:29-32 - And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, "This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. 30 "For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation...

The generation that heard Jesus was given the most powerful of evidence

- John 5:36 - "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish -- the very works that I do -- bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

The generation that heard Jesus was given the most powerful of evidence

- John 5:39-40 - "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

The generation that heard Jesus was given the most powerful of evidence

- Who is really willing to think? Who really has “ears to hear?”

The generation that heard Jesus was given the most powerful of evidence

- What would it have been like to have personally heard and saw Jesus?
- What kind of miracles did Jesus work? How could that generation know if they were “real?”
- Why was demon possession and the ability to cast out demons such a powerful sign?

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- The miracles of Jesus were widely known by that generation. **(Mt 4:23-25)**

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- **Matthew 4:23-25** - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- 24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. 25 Great multitudes followed Him -- from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- Even Herod knew of His widespread reputation. (Lk 23:8)

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- **Luke 23:8** - Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him.

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- One of the primary reasons people came to Jesus was to be healed.
- Imagine today if one person had the cure for all cancer and that news was spread by word of mouth! What would happen if it was known he was in town?
- While Jesus wanted this to be a part of His work, He often discouraged people from speaking! (Mk 7:36-37)

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- **Mark 7:36-37** - Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. 37 And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- Could His miracles have been *fakes and mirages*?
- There were many *very motivated to deny* and discard His miracles.
- What would a man born blind from birth *look like*, before and after?
- What would a lame man disabled from birth look like, *before and after*?

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- What if these people were *in public places often* and there *for years?*
- Jesus' greatest enemies *could not deny His miracles!*
They sought to attribute _____ them to Satan. (**Mt 12:22-24**)

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- **Matthew 12:22-24** - Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" 24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- Consider the powerful sign of *casting out demons*.
- Imagine facing a supernatural power that *you could do nothing about!*
- Consider that this problem was *widespread and was clearly known* by the public! **(Mk 7:26; Mt 15:22)**

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- **Matthew 15:21-22** - Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- **Mark 7:26** - The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- Also consider *the fakes* that took your money and did nothing.
- Demon possession resulted in *visible, terrible things*.
- Some were *blind and unable to speak*.
(Mt 12:22; Mk 9:25)

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- **Matthew 12:22** - Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- **Mark 9:25** - When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "**Deaf and dumb spirit**, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- Some were wild and had superhuman strength. (Mt 8:28; Mk 5:3-4)

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- Matthew 8:28 - When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that *no one could pass that way.*

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- Mark 5:3-4 - who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, 4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him.

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- These demons could also speak.
(Mk 1:34)

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- Mark 1:34 - Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- Those who were delivered from demons *knew the truth!*
(Lk 8:2)

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- Luke 8:2 - and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities -- Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons,

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- Jesus *gave the apostles this power!*
(Lk 9:1-2)

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- Luke 9:1-2 - Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. 2 He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

The Miracles of Jesus and His Apostles

- They would later be *the spokesmen for Jesus* after His resurrection!
- Real miracles show *God is behind the one performing them.*

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- Jesus planned for this great sign.
- When he was summoned to come and heal Lazarus, He intentionally delayed His return. (Jn 11:3-6)

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- John 11:3-6 3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." 4 When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- He let the disciples know that Lazarus was dead even *before they arrived.* (Jn 11:14-15)

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- **John 11:14-15** - Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him."

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- He knew that this sign would pave the way for His own death. This would become an undeniable sign that would *enrage His enemies.*

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- There was no question that Lazarus was dead!
- When Jesus arrived Lazarus was dead four days! (Jn 11:17, 39)

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- John 11:17 - So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- John 11:39 - Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- The family knew He was dead.
- They knew when and how he was placed in the tomb. He could not have survived even if he was still alive at burial.
- The smell at the opening of the tomb would have plainly “spoke!”

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- The resurrection of Lazarus was a very public event. (Jn 11:39-45)

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- **John 11:39-45** - Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- 41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 "And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- 43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go." 45 Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- With many witnesses *the event could be verified.*
- Some of the witnesses were *not disciples of Jesus.* Some were loyal to the Pharisees. (Jn 11:37, 46)

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- **John 11:37** - And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?"

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- John 11:46 - But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did.

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- Those that witnessed this event had a simple, powerful story to tell! Their own “shock and awe” no doubt highly motivated them to speak!

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- Jesus' greatest enemies could not deny this miracle! (Jn 11:47-48, 53)

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- **John 11:47-48** - Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. 48 "If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- John 11:53 - Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- They had the opportunity to “cross-examine” the witnesses.
- They could have spoken to Lazarus or his family!
- They did not deny the miracle but they did deny its implications! They refused to think and draw the obvious conclusion!
- They wanted to destroy the evidence!
(Jn 12:10)

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- John 12:10-11 - But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

The Resurrection of Lazarus

- This was so foolish. Jesus could have raised Lazarus again!

The audience on the day of Pentecost

- Most of them were *present at the previous Passover!*
- They would have *heard the witnesses speak* about Lazarus! (Jn 12:9-11)

The audience on the day of Pentecost

- **John 12:9-11** - Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

The audience on the day of Pentecost

- This combined with all that Jesus had done, gave this generation a powerful knowledge!
- The events at the Passover feast only 50 days earlier would be greatly pondered.

The audience on the day of Pentecost

- The wickedness and hypocrisy of their leaders combined with *the signs at the crucifixion* (darkness, the earthquake and others raised from the dead).
(Mt 27:45, 51-54; Lk 23:48)
- *Reports of the empty tomb* and the resurrection.

The audience on the day of Pentecost

- Peter *mentioned this evidence* to the audience on Pentecost! (**Acts 2:22-23**)

The audience on the day of Pentecost

- **Acts 2:22-23** - " Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know -- 23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

The audience on the day of Pentecost

- Even though this was a hostile audience, he could say: “as you yourselves also know” without fear of contradiction!
- There is no other audience in the book of Acts that such an appeal was made.
- Those who were converted on this day formed a nucleus that would result in the conversion of many!

The audience on the day of Pentecost

- Even though at first they were hostile, *they were willing to think!*