

Signs from God: (Or, Silly Things to Stop Saying)

—Riddles from Q, Week 8—

Matthew 11:20-24//Luke 10:13-15 (NIV)

Matthew

²⁰ Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent.

²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For 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 to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.

For 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.”

Luke

¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

¹⁴ But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.

¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.

(see 10:12)

If you would like to analyze these passages visually, you can: (1) put a box around material that is unique to either gospel; (2) Material that is shared exactly you can underline in both gospels; and (3) Material that is similar you can underline with a dotted line in both gospels.

4 Silly Things to Stop Saying:

1. “You don’t need to _____ to _____.”
2. “All _____ are the _____.”
3. “God is not _____ to _____ never _____ Jesus.”
4. “Miracles are not _____ for _____.”

Short Definition of a Miracle

“A strikingly surprising event, beyond normal human capacity, believed to be a significant act of God” (Eric Eve, *The Healer from Nazareth*, XVII).

Long Definition of a Miracle

“A miracle is (1) an unusual, startling, or extraordinary event that is in principle perceivable by any interested and fair-minded observer, (2) an event that finds no reasonable explanation in human abilities or in other known forces that operate in our world of time and space, and (3) an event that is the result of a special act of God, doing what no human power can do” (John Meier, *A Marginal Jew* 2:512).

The Bottom Line:

Don’t Stop _____ to _____ has _____
 ...by continuing to _____ whatever _____ you have _____.
 ...by _____ an attitude of _____.
 ...by holding the _____ of seeking _____ but not _____.