



# The Sign for Our Times

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AGENCYSIGN  
& lighting services

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“A wicked and perverse generation seeketh after a sign”

Jesus in Matthew 16:4

Recited on numerous occasions by Randy Rudman –  
sign industry humor



# Wondering About Signs

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- **Mark 8:11** The Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him. **12 Sighing deeply in His spirit,** He \*said, “Why does this generation seek for a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.” **13** Leaving them, He again embarked and went away to the other side.
- Matthew 16 says “except for ...?”



# Faith on MY Terms

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- What does it mean to you to ask for a sign?
- Greek word – semeion – a mark, an indication or a token
- Something physically clear and unambivalent, like a signpost pointing the way or something generated by God to meet my requirements and makes sense to me
- Jesus said to the Pharisees YOU DON'T GET A SIGN, YOU GET ME!!!



# Row, Row, Row in the Boat

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- **Mark 8: 14** And they had forgotten to take bread, and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them.
- **15** And He was giving orders to them, saying, “Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”
- **16** They *began* to discuss with one another *the fact* that **they had no bread**.
- Well, argue is more like it



# What is Wrong With Y'all?

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- <sup>17</sup> And Jesus, aware of this, \*said to them, “Why do you discuss *the fact* that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? **Do you have a hardened heart?** <sup>18</sup> HAVING EYES, DO YOU NOT SEE? AND HAVING EARS, DO YOU NOT HEAR?
- Emotions and seat of the will has become **petrified**, resistant, unresponsive
- Do know what that feels like? How does that happen?



# Try to Remember

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- **And do you not remember,**
- 19 when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?" They \*said to Him, "Twelve." 20 "When I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?" And they \*said to Him, "Seven."
- 21 And He was saying to them, "**Do you not yet understand?**"



# Awkward Silence

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- What is it that they still didn't understand?
- With Jesus, you are never out of bread, **BECAUSE HE IS THE BREAD!!!**
- They didn't have to panic or be ashamed or feel guilty for failing, all they had to do was say, "Lord, could you do that bread thing again? We are running a little short today."





# We Forget So Quickly

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- They had just seen amazing miracles with their own eyes!
- But our default programming in the world is never to remember the good news, but to always focus on and fear worst case scenarios, and fight or flee, instead of remembering/standing in faith!
- The Pharisees, full of doubt, demanded a sign. The disciples had the Living Sign, and the power of fear is still sometimes too strong.



# We Have All Been in the Boat

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- There are plenty of days when it feels like we are out of bread, when it looks like we don't have enough of whatever we think we need to keep going and fix what's broken or heal what is hurting or overcome whatever it is that is threatening us.
- We **know we aren't enough** and we don't have enough, and to make things worse, it is probably our own fault that we are in this mess in the first place, so it is up to us to fix it.



# We Forget Jesus IS the BREAD!

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- Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name. <sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, **And forget none of His benefits;** <sup>3</sup> Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; <sup>4</sup> Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; <sup>5</sup> Who satisfies your [a]years with good things, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle.
- Hebrews 3:13 – Encourage each other daily, as long as it is called today, lest we become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.



# Do You Still Not Understand?

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- Jesus IS the Sign for our times, the times you and I – all of us – are going through right now
- The One Who fed the 5,000 is RIGHT THERE IN THE BOAT WITH YOU
- Let go of your guilt, stop blaming other people. None of that matters,
- **The headline here is you are NOT OUT OF BREAD and you never will be**



# Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY