

DISCIPLES OF MOSES?

(PART 2)

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In John 9:28-29, the Pharisees reviled a blind man whom Jesus healed, and said to him, “Thou art his disciple; *but we are Moses’ disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses:* as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is” (John 9:27-29). The Pharisees *claimed* to be disciples of Moses, but this claim was false. They said that they *knew* that God spoke to Moses, but the proof that God spoke to Moses was given by the miracles that God did through him (Exod 4:1-9,28-31; 14:31). God gave much greater witness that he spoke to Jesus Christ his Son by far more miracles than were done by Moses. Yet the Pharisees did not believe the testimony the Father gave to his Son. They also did not obey the words of Moses, whom they claimed to follow, nor did they believe Moses’ prophecies of Christ. The Pharisees were *not* Moses’ disciples.

How we know God sent Jesus Christ

Christ’s first miracle mirrored what God did with Moses in Exodus chapter four. “And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: and both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, and saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now. *This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him*” (John 2:1-11). John 2:23 says, “*Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did*” After this, John 3:1-2 says, “There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came to Jesus by night, and said

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unto him, *Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.*” Christ himself said of the miracles that he performed, “But I have greater witness than that of John: *for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me*” (John 5:36). John 7:31 says that “*many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?*” The blind man that Jesus healed in John chapter nine said to the Pharisees, “*Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing*” (John 9:32-33). Therefore, if the Pharisees truly believed that God spoke to Moses, then they would have believed that God had sent Jesus and was speaking to Jesus too. But they obviously did not believe God’s witness, and were thus guilty of calling God a liar (1 John 5:9-10). Therefore, they really did not believe that God spoke to Moses.

Disobedience is unbelief

God through Moses gave the people of Israel the law. If the Pharisees truly believed the law had come from God, then they would have obeyed it. Romans 10:16 says, “But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?” It is interesting and noteworthy to see that a scripture that foretold Israel’s lack of belief was fulfilled by their lack of obedience. That is why James 2:14-26 teaches that a faith that is not carried forth into action with works of obedience is a dead faith. The Pharisees most certainly did not obey Moses. In John 7:19, Christ said to them, “*Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?*” The Pharisees rejected God’s commandments through Moses in order to keep their own traditions (Mark 7:6-13). Finally, in John 5:45-47, Jesus said to the Jewish leaders, “*Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?*” Therefore, the Pharisees did not sincerely believe that God spoke to Moses, and they were not truly disciples of Moses.