

The REST of the story...Jesus' exceptions

I wanted to show a point here about context and harmony and taking one passage TOO literally while rejecting others that should be worked TOGETHER with the rest.

Scripture says what it says and means what it means, correct?

We take each passage as absolutely as it is stated by what some seem to present. Some seem to believe that scriptures cannot be modified by other, similar scriptures and we ALL seem to have the problem of pushing our pet passages as absolute while rejecting anything that doesn't agree with our views.

Here is something that is stated VERY clearly in Mark and why we can NEVER just look at ONE passage and believe that it presents any absolutes without consulting the spirit of the WHOLE of God's word.

This is expressed as an absolute here in Mark;

Mar 8:11-13 KJV And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him. (12) And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation. (13) And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side.

See there ?

An ABSOLUTE statement given and by Jesus Christ Himself.

If I wanted to pull a legalist stunt here with this verse I could keep going on about how CLEAR it is, how direct and how unyielding it is presented.

It is stated AS an absolute fact, no questions asked. ...NO sign shall be given to this generation.

Now, do you believe it because Jesus SAID it or not, dear reader ?

Decide now before we go on whether you take Him at HIS word or not.

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and now let us continue with related scriptures elsewhere in the NT.

The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

(Mat 16:1-4 KJV)

And oddly enough, Matthew repeats this exception again, just as he does the divorce exception...

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from You."

But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."

For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

(Mat 12:38-40 EMTV)

Interestingly enough, this word 'except' is the SAME word presented in Matthew 19:9

*ButG1161 heG3588 answeredG611 and saidG2036 unto them,G846 An evilG4190 andG2532 adulterousG3428 generationG1074 seeketh afterG1934 a sign;G4592 andG2532 there shall noG3756 signG4592 be givenG1325 to it,G846but **G1508** theG3588 signG4592 of theG3588 prophetG4396 Jonas:G2495*

(Mat 12:39 KJV+)

vs.

*AndG1161 I sayG3004 unto you,G5213 WhosoeverG3739 G302 shall put awayG630 hisG848 wife,G1135 **exceptG1508** it be forG1909 fornication,G4202 andG2532 shall marryG1060 another,G243 committeth adultery:G3429 andG2532 whoso marriethG1060 her which is put awayG630 doth commit adultery.G3429*

(Mat 19:9 KJV+)

G1508

ἐἰ μή

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From G1487 and G3361; if not: - but, except (that), if not, more than, save (only) that, saving, till.

See all that ?...the REST of the story.

The statement in Mark was given as an ABSOLUTE....no exceptions, no excuses, absolutely absolute.

..but then we come to OTHER details in the NT...other writers....who give us MORE detail in the matter and make us realize that what is said in Mark IS true...but it ISNT the entire picture.

When you hear someone giving you a verse or two....someone pushing ONE side of a story on you and showing you the scriptures THEY want to have you believe, ALWAYS be a noble minded Berean and check the REST of Gods word in the matter.

Lets say you didnt know the scriptures and someone was pushing the Mark passage on you....you would literally believe that NO sign was to be given based on that narrow set of details, wouldnt you ?

This MDR thing is precisely the same.

Some here want you to accept THEIR pet passages as absolute without harmonizing ALL of the facts from the whole of Gods word in the matter.

They want you to see 'except for fornication' and 'God hates divorce' and base what you believe on THAT limited information instead of looking at the spirit of the WHOLE word of God.

Whatever Marks reasons for leaving out this sign of Jonah were, we know factually that Christ DID make the statement. This is why we need all four gospels. It doesn't matter 'why' Mark didn't record the words, we KNOW that when Christ spoke about no sign being given that He DID say that the sign of Jonah would be given, even if Marks account seems to directly conflict with Matthews by not presenting it.

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Additionally...curiosity got the better of me to see if Matthew and Marks accounts DO record the same event.

Here's both accounts after Jesus speaking about this sign....
I've color coded some of the events to PROVE that this IS the same event.

*And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, tempting him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation. And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side. Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf. And he charged them, saying, **Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.** And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no bread.*

And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve. And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven. And he said unto them, How is it that ye do not understand?

(Mar 8:11-21)

versus

The Pharisees and the Sadducees came to Him, tempting Him. And they asked Him that He would show them a sign from Heaven. He answered and said to them, When it is evening, you say, Fair weather; for the sky is red. And in the morning, Foul weather today; for the sky is red and gloomy. Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky, but you cannot see the signs of the times!

*A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed. And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. Then Jesus said unto them, **Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.** And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.*

Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

(Mat 16:4-12)

Actual SCHOLARS of scripture show that this WAS the SAME event, btw...

Mat 16:5-12

The account in these verses is also recorded in Mar_8:13-21.

3.0

And the details preceding the event also confirm that it is the same ;

*In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them, I have compassion on the multitude, **because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat** : And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far. And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?*

***And he asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven. And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves,** and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people. And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them. So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets. And they that had eaten were **about four thousand**: and he sent them away. And straightway he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of Dalmanutha.*

(Mar 8:1-10)

versus

*And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there. And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel. Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, **because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat** : and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way. And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude?*

***And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.** And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full. And they that did eat **were four thousand men**, beside women and children. And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala.*

(Mat 15:29-39)

Notes

What we have in this particular case is when a person takes ONE verse to an extreme instead of harmonizing them....or simply admitting that possibly we dont fully understand the intent which is the case in a number of New and Old testament passages....there ARE actually cases where two verses seem to directly conflict *IF* they are taken as absolute and as written.

If I say in one breath "NO ONE CAN GO"

Then in the next breath "NO ONE CAN GO EXCEPT ____"

Those two statements 'as written' are contradictory because in the first it is stated in no uncertain terms that no one can go, while in the second we see an exception that offers some condition whereby someone CAN actually go.

In the linked article above we see exactly this sort of case. When we take each statement as absolute, ignoring context, ignoring harmony in the text and in the overall picture, then taking these two statements in that article we can come to a point where they seem to conflict in a very direct and very serious manner.

IF BOTH of those are meant 'as is' and if we assume that Jesus isnt lying, then one of those statements is false. Either there will be NO SIGN given....or there will be No sign EXCEPT the sign of Jonah. By themselves they would leave a reader without enough data to make a call either way. But thanks to our having a LOT more data we can see very clearly that Marks statement is lacking some detail, and this isnt the only time Mark fails to give an exception to a statement that Matthew does record, as pointed out in that article.

We dont 'pit' one scripture against another.

We simply ADMIT that many times ONE scripture or ONE verse does not contain enough data to get the whole story across.

Its not MY cited verses against YOURs.

Its that we understand that its very unlikely that we will get the BIG picture from a verse, or a chapter or even an entire letter/book in many cases.

Not to mention that there are, irregardless of the views of some, a few passages in the bible that no one has been able to nail down for certain as to their exact intent. There are some Hebrew phrases that have no perfect English counterpart so even the translators had a rough time translating them into english.

We have to look at the evidence as a complete WHOLE in order to understand the broader picture...and where one verse seems to conflict with 20 that agree with each other, it is a certainty that the scripture is quite accurate in what it says, but WE may not be understanding exactly what it IS saying.