

Matthew Chapter 16

Matthew 16:1

The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting (testing) desired (asked) him that he would show them a sign from heaven.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were Jewish religious leaders of two different religions. The Pharisees believed in the authority of scripture and the resurrection of the dead, whereas the Sadducees accepted only the books of Moses as scripture and didn't believe in the resurrection. The two religious groups joined together when they came against Jesus and His teaching as well as agreeing to kill Him. When the enemy comes against us, it's never just one adversary, but a couple or more, that's why the Bible teaches us to place our faith in God, not what we see, hear or feel. They wanted Jesus to give them a sign as though that would have made them believe. They had already made a decision and the verdict was death.

Matthew 16:2

He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

Jesus went on to tell them about themselves and their ideas of what the weather will be



Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

because of what they saw. Everything we see doesn't always be what we "think" we're seeing.

Matthew 16:3

And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering (threatening) O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

They could discern the weather by the way the sky looked, but they didn't discern it was the Son of God that was standing before them and demonstrating that he was the Son of God by showing signs of healing the sick, casting out demons and raising the dead. Jesus called them hypocrites. They weren't concerned about the people's well-being, they were angry whenever Jesus healed someone, they wanted Him to solve their curiosity.

Matthew 16:4

A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah. And he left them, and departed.

Jesus informed them that those that seek after signs were wicked and was not righteous. If they were

of a right spirit they wouldn't have to seek after a sign, but only believe. Signs are for those that don't believe, the Bible says the just (righteous) shall live by faith.

Matthew 16:5

And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

After reaching the other side the disciples forgot to bring the bread that was left over from feeding the four thousand. It doesn't indicate that Jesus was upset with them because they forgot, as disciples of Jesus, we need to be more considerate and more compassion to those that may have forgotten to carry out a task.

Matthew 16:6

Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Jesus began to teach them who they should be aware of. The very people that suppose to have been spiritual leaders were leading the people astray.

Matthew Chapter 16

Apostle Paul informed the saints to follow him as he followed Christ. In other words, he was telling them, if I stray away from the doctrine and begin to teach and act in a way that is different from the word of God, find yourself another leader that will direct you in the ways of God. Everyone that's teaching, preaching and prophesying are not applying bible principles. They make look the part, but they are imitating, directing the sheep from the Shepherd.

Matthew 16:7

And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.

Instead of asking Jesus what He meant, they begin to assume that it was because they didn't take bread. They were in the natural, while Jesus was talking spiritual. Many times we don't receive the blessing and directions in the way we should go because we're too busy thinking on the natural when we should be in the spirit, setting our affections on things above and not the things that are on the earth.

Matthew 16:8

Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because you have brought no bread? When Jesus perceived what they were thinking among themselves, He let them know they had little faith, they seemed to have forgotten He had just fed four thousand people from seven loaves of bread and a few fish, that was a miracle performed, and they were wondering about the bread they forgot. They didn't understand that Jesus could make something out of nothing. In order for us to know Jesus, we must spend

time with Him. Not just believing, but knowing we must have fellowship with Him consistently.

Matthew 16:9

Do ye not yet understand neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets ye took up?

Jesus asked them, had they so soon forgot about feeding the thousand and how God had supplied the need. Too many times we forget what the Lord has done for us. Past experience should bring about a present day faith.

Matthew 16:10

Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

He wanted to know did they remember the miracle that God had just performed. So quickly we forget what God has done for us. Too many times we let fear rob our faith. Jesus never fails, whatever the need maybe, He shall provide. He is Jehovah-jireh, our provider. When we follow Jesus the way the Father has instructed us, God has made a covenant with us that He will provide for us. If we stop looking at the physical and look into the spirit, we wouldn't be so soon to forget who is always with us even until death.

Matthew 16:11

How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that you should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees?

The disciples had been with Jesus, He taught them the word of God, but some of them were still looking at the natural instead of the spiritual. We can't see and understand the things of God with our natural mind, they must be spiritual discern. We must listen, learn and discern.

Matthew 16:12

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.

People of God, we cannot listen to everyone's teaching. Everyone teaching and preaching hasn't been sent by God. Too many times, Christians don't take time out to read the Bible to know whether or not the person over them is sent by God. They look at the person appearance, their credentials and not discern by the spirit of God. The Pharisees and Sadducees were spiritual leaders, but they were leading the people away from the doctrine of the scriptures. Saints know the word of God, Christians wait until someone tells them the scriptures. The word of God must be in our hearts, and the only way its going to get there is by hearing and reading the word of God, then applying what we read and hear.

Matthew 16:13

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

Most likely there probably was a lot of talk around town about Jesus. Some say He was man of God, others were calling Him a devil. Jesus already knew what the people was saying, this was a way to let the disciples know what they were saying about Him to themselves. Many times we like or dislike people because of what others have said about them. Get to know the person yourself. Many are in a backslidden stage because they took someone else word about a minister and to find out later that it wasn't the truth. Know them that labor among you.

Matthew 16:14

And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elijah, and others, Jeremiah, or some of the prophets.

Then and now, there are still people that believe that Jesus is only a prophet. Jesus is the Son

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of God. He's more than a prophet, we have to know Him for ourselves, we can't rely on what others think about Him. Get to know Him for yourself, then you can say He's my savior, master, provider, fortifier, shepherd, joy, peace that and more.

Matthew 16:15

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am.

Jesus wanted to know what His disciples were saying. We should be able to tell anyone who Jesus is and what he means to us individually, we can't go off of others testimony, we must know Him for ourselves, we must have a personal relationship with our Savior.

Matthew 16:16

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Peter was given revelation of who Jesus was. He declared Jesus was the Son of the Living God. Peter was discerning by the spirit and not by intellect. The bible is spiritual, and we must discern it through and by the Spirit of God.

Matthew 16:17

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou Simon Bar-Jona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

In order to understand the bible, it has to be spiritually discerned, if not, it will seem foolish to those that understand with the intellect. Every time we read the bible, we should ask the Holy Spirit to open our understanding, as well as help us to obey what the Word of God is saying.

Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The rock upon which Jesus would build his church has been identified as Jesus himself, his work of

salvation by dying for us on the cross. The church can't be built on nothing else, it's through faith in Jesus, the Son of God.

Matthew 16:19

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

One of the keys would be faith in Jesus. Through Him can we access the kingdom of God through faith in Him. The key of doctrine is also called the key of knowledge. The apostles had knowledge of some things forbidden by law of Moses were now allowed; some things allowed then were now to be forbidden. Jesus has given every born-again Christian the power of attorney to use His name.

Through His name we can release and we can close things in the spirit.

Matthew 16:20

Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

Jesus warned the disciples not to publicize Peter's confession, because they did not yet fully understand the kind of Messiah he had come to be, not a military commander, but a suffering servant that would die so that we could live.

Matthew 16:21

From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

From that time forwarded, Jesus began to teach His disciples what the elders, priest and scribes would do to Him.

The disciples took Jesus as the Messiah that would rule on earth by force.

Matthew 16:22

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

Peter didn't understand why Jesus had to die. Peter believed Jesus was the Messiah, but he wanted to protect him from the death Jesus had to face in order that not only Peter, but everyone that believe in Jesus to be cleansed through the shedding of His blood. Many times we go against things we really don't understand, not knowing it's working together for our good although we don't understand.

Matthew 16:23

But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offense unto me: for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Jesus wasn't calling Peter, Satan, but He was talking to the spirit of Satan speaking through Peter. Satan will use a saint as well as an ungodly person when we yield ourselves to him, through disobedience as well as ignorant to the word of God. Satan waits for a yielded vessel the same way God waits for a yielded vessel to speak through and manifest himself through.

Matthew 16:24

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

In order to be disciples of Jesus, we must forget our agenda, and be confirmed to His will and His way. We must be in unity with His spirit to carry out the will of the Father. Taking up our cross is a true commitment to Jesus, excepting we might risk death, rejection, persecutions, lied on, suffering, with a mind and heart to continue to be faithful to Jesus.

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Matthew 16:25

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Real discipleship implies real commitment, pledging our whole existence to his service, forgetting about what people may say, think or do to us because of our commitment to Christ. When we place our lives in the masters hands, we don't have to worry about what's going to happen to us, because our lives are in Christ. Whatever comes upon us or towards us has to get permission from the Father, if given permission for its manifestation, then He will also give us a way of escape. He will never leave us in the hands of the enemy. It's a different story when we place ourselves in the hands of the enemy!

Matthew 16:26

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange to his soul?

Life without Christ is death; riches and all the things that the world has to offer cannot compare to having a life in Christ. Everything the world has to offer will one day vanish, but the soul and spirit of man will still exist; and if its not connected with the Father and the Son, the soul and spirit shall have an eternal life in torment where the spirit is aware of the everlasting torment.

Matthew 16:27

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

I advise everyone that's attending church, don't attend and still go to eternal torment because

you will not abide by the word of God. God's has left an instruction manual, and its our responsibility as Christians to read the manual and follow its instructions. Too many people are attending church and still doing, saying and going places God has instructed us not to do. Attending church cannot save you nor will it assist you into heaven unless we're following the instructions of our spiritual leader as well as following the instructions of the insurance policy, that will give us eternal life **if** we follow the instructions. Jesus is returning for his church, and it's not the church building. We must have the spirit of the Living God residing within our being.

Matthew 16:28

Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Jesus wasn't talking about physical death for those that was standing with him that day, He was speaking of spiritual death, the second death that would cause the individual to be in eternal torment. As sure as we have been born, we shall die, what we do now will determine where we shall reside for eternity. Don't be a faithful listener of the word of God, but fail to live according to the Word of God. Jesus died that we might have life and have it more abundantly, there is no reason for anyone to stray from the faith. God has empowered us through His Son, to live a godly life with prosperity. Believe God's word, live according to His word, speak his word over your life and into your life. The word of God is spirit and they are life to those that understand it. If we

as born-again Christians would take the time to fellowship with Jesus through prayer, reading and studying the word of God, as well as fasting, we would begin to see Jesus manifesting Himself more in our situations as well as in our being. We cannot continue to do the things we were doing before we accepted Christ, if so, why did He die if we could continue to do, say and go the places we were going before coming Christians? The word of God tell us not to love the world nor the things in the world, if so, the love of the Father is not in us. God is no longer having us to sacrifice bulls, and goats, but He's calling us to make ourselves a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is duty as Born-again Christians!

God bless you! Be encouraged. Know that you have the victory through Jesus Christ, the Lord of Host.

**The Messenger
C/o The Word of
Life Ministries
Evangelist Carolyn Luke
P.O. Box 148694
Chicago, Illinois 60614
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**Web address:
www.wordoflifeministries.org**