



Matthew 16:1-12

(Context)

Matt. 15:39 And He sent away the multitude, got into the boat, and came to the region of Magdala.

(Text)

Matt. 16:1 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.

Matt. 16:2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red';

Matt. 16:3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.

Matt. 16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

Matt. 16:5 Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread (compare with Mark 8:14).

Matt. 16:6 Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

Matt. 16:7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread."

Matt. 16:8 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?"

Matt. 16:9 Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up?

Matt. 16:10 Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up?

Matt. 16:11 How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

Matt. 16:12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Observations & Discussion

1. In our text Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for their spiritual blindness. What caused them to be spiritually blind and what were they not able to see?

2. How can you ensure that you don't become spiritually blind?

3. In our text Jesus tells the disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees & Sadducees: What did He mean? Now check out Galatians 5:1-9; 1Cor. 5:1-8 & Luke 12:1—what does leaven represent in each of these verses? In general what is leaven symbolic of in the Bible?

4. Why do you think Jesus deals so harshly with hypocrisy? What are some examples from the New Testament of hypocrisy in the early church?

5. In verses 7-12 we find that the disciples were spiritually blind as well! What caused them to be spiritually blind?

6. How would you define hypocrisy & why is it so dangerous if left unchecked? How can you guard against hypocrisy creeping into your life?