## 16:1-12

## • Review...

- o FIRST The Presentation of the King **Matthew 1-7**
- o SECOND The Ministry of the King Matthew 8-18
- o Lesson in Faith...
  - Having confronted the SCRIBES and PHARISEES for a FOURTH time [traditions]
  - Jesus left the area of the Decapolis and went up to Tyre and Sidon...
  - A GENTILE woman came and begged Jesus to help but He ignored her [called to Israel]
  - Then He told her it was NOT right to give the kids food to the DOGS...
  - She did not argue but added even the DOGS eat the scraps from the MASTERS table...
  - Because of her GREAT faith Jesus healed her daughter!
- o Lesson in Provision...
  - Jesus returned to the area of the Decapolis taught a large CROWD for THREE days...
  - He did NOT want to leave without food but the DISCIPLES argued they did NOT have enough...
  - Jesus took SEVEN loaves and a few SMALL fish and fed FOUR thousand men [plus wives and kids]
  - Showing AGAIN it is NOT about what we have but WHO we give it to!

## • $1^{ST}$ - Seeking a Sign... vs. 1-4

- o 1<sup>st</sup> The Test... vs. 1
  - Frenemies...
    - Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came!
    - PHARISEES [Φαρισαῖος] 100x in NT were the CONVERSATIVE sect of Judaism...
    - Israel was sent into CAPTIVITY because they rejected God II Chronicles 36:16
    - The PHARISEES were formed after the CAPTIVITY to keep Israel HOLY...
    - Their name comes from the Hebrew word [פַּרַשׁ] to be SEPARATE!
    - SADDUCEES [Σαδδουκαῖος] 14x in NT were the LIBERAL sect of Judaism...
    - Their name means those who are RIGHT [צָדוֹק] but they were WRONG...
    - They did NOT believe in the resurrection hell or angels Matthew 22:23
    - It should come as NO surprise these two groups did NOT get along...
    - When Paul was being JUDGED before the COUNSEL [Sanhedrin] Acts 23:7
    - He realized BOTH groups were present and he used their DIFFERENCES to divide them!
    - The world does NOT agree on much they will ARGUE about almost anything...
    - What is the BEST sport team what is the BEST food what is the BEST country...
    - But the ONE thing that seems to UNITE everyone is Jesus Christ...
    - Either people are FOR Him or they are AGAINST Him...
    - And when we stand up for Jesus people will likewise either LOVE us or HATE us!
    - **II Corinthians 2:15:16** "We are the fragrance of Christ... to those who are perishing we are the aroma of death... and to those who are being saved the aroma of life leading to life."
    - From heaven...
      - Testing [Jesus] they asked that He would show them a sign from heaven!
      - The PHARISEES [and scribes] had already challenged Jesus FOUR times...
      - FIRST they ASKED why Jesus ate with SINNERS Matthew 9:11
      - SECOND- they ACCUSED His DISCIPLES breaking the Sabbath **Matthew 12:2**
      - THIRD they DEMANDED Jesus show them a SIGN **Matthew 12:38**
      - FOURTH they CHALLENGED Him about their TRADITIONS [washing hands] Matthew 15:2

- NOW they demanded [ἐπερωτάω] Jesus show them a SIGN [σημεῖον] from HEAVEN!
- One might ask why did Jesus NOT just mention one of His recent MIRACLES...
- He fed FIVE thousand men with FIVE loaves and TWO fish He walked on water...
- He cast out the demon from the daughter of the Syro-Phoenician woman...
- Healed countless lame the blind the deaf and the mute...
- Then fed another FOUR thousand more people with SEVEN loaves and few SMALL fish!
- Rejection...
  - There was NO sign that Jesus could give that would convince them...
  - He could have done a THOUSAND miracles and they still would NOT have believed...
  - The problem was NOT with Jesus the problem was they did NOT want Jesus!
  - I was filling out a form the other day to register a SIM card for Hallel...
  - I had ALREADY filled out the form for myself but it asked for ALL the info AGAIN...
  - So I gave it my LICENSE but it wanted my PASSPORT and IMMIGRATION card...
  - Having given all the information and IDs it asked to take my picture DONE...
  - But then it said it could NOT process my application they could not verify who is was!
  - People do NOT deny Jesus because of a LACK of evidence...
  - They REJECT Jesus because they do NOT want Him...
  - They do NOT want to REPENT they do NOT want to give up their SIN!
  - **John 3:19** "This is the condemnation... men love darkness rather than light."
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> No Discernment... vs. 2-3
  - The Weather... vs. 2-3
    - [Jesus] answered and said to them:
    - When it is evening you say It will be fair weather for the sky is red.
    - And in the morning. It will be foul weather today for the sky is red and threatening!
    - If a SKY is red at SUNSET it is because there is a lot of DUST in the air...
    - The DUST is a sign of HIGH pressure because there is NO rain to clear the air...
    - The light of the SUN then gets scattered by the DUST which we see as RED light...
    - BUT if the SKY is red at SUNRISE is because there is a LOT of MOISTURE in the air...
    - This is a sign of LOW pressure and often means RAIN is coming!
    - It turns out this Jewish TRADITION in based in science...
    - But the PHARISEES did NOT know the SCIENCE they just OBSERVED the facts...
    - Years of experience taught them what a RED sky meant!
  - Hypocrites... vs. 3
    - Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky.
    - But you cannot discern the signs of the times!
    - Since they KNEW how to JUDGE [diakrivw] the WEATHER...
    - How did they lack the POWER [δύναμαι] to read the SIGNS [σημεῖον] right in front of them...
    - Jesus was NOT fooled He called out their HYPOCRISY [two faced]
    - Just as they SAW the weather they SAW the signs Jesus had already given!
    - $\bullet~$  I had a co-worker years ago who believed in EVOLUTION because of the FACTS...
    - He challenged me that if I could show him he was WRONG he would change his mind...
    - I took up the challenge and did some homework:
    - SECOND law of thermodynamics says things go from order to chaos [opposite of Evolution]
    - Darwinian EVOLUTION was disproved discovery of DNA code [code speaks of design]
    - Modern EVOLUTION is based on MUTATIONS of the DNA code...
    - But almost all MUTATION are harmful or deadly [cancer] only ONE in a million are good...
    - When I presented these flaws of EVOLUTION he admitted he could NOT defend it...
    - But he still believed in EVOLUTION because he WANTED to!

- People are NOT dumb but they do have ULTERIOR motives...
- The reason the world believes LIES is because they do NOT want the truth...
- But we are NOT called to PROVE that God is REAL the evidence is all around us...
- Instead it is the world that needs to DEFEND why they REJECT what they can SEE!
- **Romans 1:20** "Through everything God made [people] can clearly see... His eternal power and divine nature. So they have NO excuse for NOT knowing God!" [NLT]
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> Only Sign... vs. 4
  - Evil generation...
    - A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign!
    - An EVIL and ADULTEROUS generation SEEKS [present] a sign...
    - EVIL  $[\pi ov \eta \rho \delta \varsigma]$  speaking of a heart that is FAR from the LORD...
    - ADULTEROUS [μοιχαλίς] 7x in NT used to describe SPIRITUAL adultery...
    - Because in the Old and New Testament both Israel and Church are likened to a BRIDE...
    - And when a BRIDE is NOT faithful to her husband she is an ADULTERESSES!
    - People have an AFFAIR because they think another person will make them HAPPIER...
    - No one throws away their marriage because they think they will be MISERABLE...
    - In the same way the only reason someone CHEATS on Jesus...
    - Is because there is something else that they think will make them HAPPIER than God!
    - Be careful of a divided heart desiring to FOLLOW Jesus but FLIRTING with the world...
    - Trying to LOVE this world and the Lord is CHEATING on Jesus!
    - James 4:4 "To be a friend of the world [is to be] an enemy of God."
  - Sign of Jonah...
    - No sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah!
    - Just as JONAH was THREE days and nights in the whale **Jonah 1:17**
    - Jesus would also be THREE days and nights in the earth Matthew 12:40
    - This is the SECOND time Jesus told them THIS was the ONLY sign He would give...
    - Because the ANSWER does NOT change!
    - There is only ONE solution to the problem of SIN and it is the CROSS...
    - And it does not matter how many times people ask the TRUTH is still the TRUTH!
    - **John 14:6** "No one comes to the Father except through Me."
  - Abandoned...
    - [Jesus] left them and departed!
    - This is an EMPHATIC statement repeated TWICE left and departed...
    - Jesus LEFT [καταλείπω] to abandon or to forsake...
    - This is the LAST time the RELIGIOUS leaders would ask for a SIGN...
    - Because Jesus had EXPOSED them for the HYPOCRITES they were...
    - And NEXT time they met they would be looking for a reason to CRUCIFY Him!
- $2^{ND}$  Beware the Leaven... vs. 5-12
  - o  $1^{st}$  Missing the point... vs. 5-7
    - Leaven... vs. 6
      - Jesus said to them: Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees!
      - Jesus and the DISCIPLES crossed back over to the Decapolis [away from the Religious leaders]
      - And the Lord commanded [imperative] the DISCIPLES to SEE and BEWARE the LEAVEN!
      - LEAVEN [ζύμη] yeast is a micro-organism [plant] that causes DECAY...
      - The process causes CO<sup>2</sup> to be released causing the BREAD to rise...
      - A little YEAST is ALL that is needed to INFECT the whole batch of dough!
      - A commonly used picture in the Bible always to describe SIN...
      - SIN has the ability to DECAY and it only takes a LITTLE for it to SPREAD!

- I Corinthians 5:7 "Get rid of the [leaven] by removing wicked... from among you." [NLT]
- Not understanding... vs. 5/7
  - Now when His disciples had come to the other side they had forgotten to take bread.
  - And they reasoned among themselves saying: It is because we have taken no bread!
  - The DISCIPLES did NOT know what YEAST Jesus was talking about...
  - But since they had carelessly FORGOTTEN to bring bread [which has yeast in it]
  - They THOUGHT [imperfect] He was upset for NOT bringing the FOOD...
  - Their PROBLEM they did NOT ask Jesus what He meant...
  - They were FOCUSED on their mistake and FORGET to ask the one with the ANSWERS!
  - When people do NOT understand WHAT is happening in their lives...
  - They attempt to try and figure out WHY it is happening...
  - They go so far as to ask others what they THINK but do NOT ask God...
  - But He has the right ANSWERS if we would just ask Him!
  - Isaiah 1:18 "Come now and let us reason together says the LORD!"
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> Remember... vs. 8-11
  - Little Faith... vs. 8
    - 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!
    - You can almost paint the scene the DISCIPLES huddled in a corner whispering...
    - Trying their best to come up with the SOLUTION to the riddle of the LEAVEN...
    - But Jesus KNEW [γινώσκω] and REBUKED them for their LITTLE faith...
    - WHY [Tí] would they THINK the answer was forgetting bread...
    - FOURTH and FINAL rebuke of the disciples for having LITTLE faith [ολιγόπιστος]!
    - LITTLE faith is when we forget the EXAMPLE [flowers] God provides Matthew 6:30
    - LITTLE faith is when we forget the WORD of God [calm storm] Matthew 8:26
    - LITTLE faith is when we forget to LOOK to Jesus [Peter on the water] Matthew 14:31
    - Little faith is when we THINK we have the ANSWERS!
    - FAITH is not about QUANTITY or QUALITY it is about WHO we put our TRUST in...
    - If we put our FAITH in something that does NOT have power what we THINK...
    - Then we are going to end up with LITTLE faith!
  - Feeding thousands... vs. 9-10
    - Do you not yet understand.
    - Remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up.
    - Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up!
    - All the DISCIPLES had to do was REMEMBER...
    - When Jesus fed FIVE thousand with FIVE loaves of BREAD...
    - They were given TWELVE baskets full of food left over Matthew 14:20
    - And a SECOND time when He fed FOUR thousand with SEVEN loaves of BREAD...
    - They were given SEVEN large baskets full of food left over **Matthew 15:37**
    - The Lord is NOT concerned about being able to provide for our NEEDS...
    - He can feed THOUSANDS with just a FEW loaves of bread...
    - But He is CONCERNED about us growing stronger in our RELATIONSHIP with Him!
    - I know many people who WORK on Sunday because they NEED more money...
    - But when you ask them if they are any RICHER for their efforts the answer is NO...
    - Then ask them if they are CLOSER in their relationship with Jesus the answer is NO!
  - Calloused... vs. 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!
    - In light of what they had SEEN Jesus FEEDING thousands...

- HOW then did the DISCIPLES NOT understand [voέω] it was NOT about BREAD...
- He adds in the account from Mark is your heart still HARDENED Mark 8:17
- HARDENED [πωρόω] to be [perfect] CALLUSED [passive]!
- If we do NOT understand what the God is saying to us [calloused]
- It is usually because we are MISSING the lessons Jesus is trying to teach us [multiple times]
- Often because we are focused on our MISTAKES rather than the LESSON...
- Or we only see the PHYSICAL [food] rather than look to the SPIRITUAL [word]
- Bottom line because our FAITH is misplaces [little] and we need to focus on the Lord!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> Bad Doctrine... vs. 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!
  - With that the DISCIPLES were able to PUT together [συνίημι] what Jesus meant...
  - He was WARNING them about the TEACHING [διδαχή] of the RELIGIOUS leaders!
  - I avoid oysters I am sure they are tasty but they also have a reputation...
  - Anyone who has every had a BAD oyster knows how much damage they can do...
  - Food poisoning is no joke it can put us in a person in the hospital!
  - We need to be ALERT to what people are teaching cautious...
  - Because bad DOCTRINE is like BAD food it does a LOT of damage...
  - Therefore we must TEST what is TAUGHT to be sure it is from the LORD!
  - **I John 4:1** "Beloved do not believe every spirit but test the spirits whether they are of God. Because many false [teachers] have gone out into the world."