



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's warnings!!

Matthew 16:1-12

Message #44 of 80 – S1075

Sermon given on December 10, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's warnings!!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 16**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's warnings!!**
- Chapter fifteen opened with Jesus having one of His regular confrontations with the scribes and the Pharisees.
- This chapter opens with the Pharisees and a different group from the religious establishment of Israel.
- **Matthew 16:1**
- The Pharisees and Sadducees were religious and political opposites.
- The Pharisees believed in strict adherence to the Law of Moses.
- The Sadducees were more liberal in their interpretation of Scriptures.
- The Sadducees did not believe in resurrection or in angels.
- Them coming together to test Jesus would be like the Republicans and Democrats coming together and agreeing on something.
- They held to vastly different worldviews.
- Both groups were beginning to see Jesus as an existential threat to their power and influence.
- They came 'testing' Jesus. This is the same word used in the wilderness temptation (Matthew 4:1).
- The Pharisees and Sadducees had aligned themselves for the purpose of trapping Jesus.
- Their motivation was jealousy and fear of losing esteem with the common people.
- Jesus had already done countless miracles of every kind imaginable.
- What did they want to see?
- He had healed the blind, lame, maimed, deaf, and mute.
- He had even raised the dead.

- He had already cast out demons from people, even one man who had thousands of demons in him.
- Jesus had multiplied loaves and fish on at least two occasions.
- Jesus had walked on water, though they probably only heard about that one from the disciples.
- What else could Jesus possibly do to convince them?
- It is possible they were looking for something more spectacular than anything He had already done.
- Maybe they were asking for something like causing the sun to stand still.
- Or maybe something like the plagues of Egypt.
- They wanted something bigger – something more!
- Jesus did not come to perform miracles.
- He came to declare God's will for all mankind to repent and turn to Him.
- He came to declare that the kingdom of God was at hand.
- He came to die in weakness to show the infinite power of God to save any sinner who would come to Him in faith.
- The miracles Jesus performed were meant to ease human suffering and to confirm that His message was from God.
- The Sadducees and Pharisees reject Jesus as the Messiah.
- Nothing He does will convince them.
- They are unwilling to believe in Jesus and no amount or type of miracle will change that.
- An unwillingness to believe will blind them of spiritual things (**1 Corinthians 2:13-14**).

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

- If you reject the message of Christ, the miracles will not change your mind it its truth.
- To ask for a miracle from Jesus while being unwilling to believe that He is the Messiah is hypocrisy and Jesus calls them out on it.
- **Matthew 16:2-3**

- The Pharisees and Sadducees claim to be the spiritual experts and spokesmen for God.
- And yet, they cannot tell when something spiritual is happening right before their eyes.
- Many of those present had witnessed Jesus' miracles.
- Some of them may have been the ones who accused Jesus of using the power of the devil to do the miracles He did.
- Jesus doesn't hold back with them.

- **Matthew 16:4**

- There was one more miracle that Jesus hadn't done before – He was going to die and then be raised from the dead, never to die again.
- Jonah was a picture of what Jesus was going to do.
- Jonah sacrificed himself – he told the sailors to throw him overboard to stop the storm.
- He went into the water which is a picture of death.
- He was in the belly of the great fish for three days – a picture of being buried.
- He was then spit out on the beach – pointing to the resurrection of Christ on the third day.
- Jesus was the sign they were looking for.
- He was God-in-the-flesh (**John 1:1; 14**).

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- There was no greater sign they could ask for then to have God step down out of heaven and take on human flesh.
- After finishing with the Pharisees and Sadducees, Jesus takes the disciples to the other side of the lake.

- **Matthew 16:5-6**

- As we get further into the text, we will see that this is a warning about false teaching.
- This is one of the persistent themes throughout the New Testament.
- Almost every book in the New Testament included a warning about false teaching in the church (**Romans 16:17-18**).

Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸ For those who are such do

not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

- We will come back to this topic a little later.

- **Matthew 16:7-10**

- The sad reality of our faith is that we tend to be forgetful.
- God has answered many of my prayers in my spiritual life.
- We need to regularly remind ourselves of the wonderful things God has done for us.
- If we do that, we will pray better and we will be able to stand during the difficult times that may come.
- Jesus then redirects back to the main topic.

- **Matthew 16:11-12**

- The doctrines of the Pharisees and the Sadducees were similar in one respect – they sought to interpret the Scriptures based on man’s thinking.
 - The Pharisees added to the Scriptures and made rules and regulations to control behavior.
 - The Sadducees ignored parts of the Scriptures and applied a liberal, non-literal interpretation of other parts.
 - The leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees was the adding to or taking away from the Scriptures.
 - When the Pharisees and Sadducees came together, they revealed why they approached the Scriptures the way they did.
 - Both groups wanted more from God than what He gave them.
 - This desire for more is a product of the fallen nature.
 - It is one of the first traits we see in small children – if you give them a cookie, what do they want? More!
 - Part of growing in our faith is trusting that what God provides is enough, both materially and spiritually (**2 Corinthians 9:8**).
- God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.**
- The doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees proved they weren’t satisfied with what God gave them.
 - The Bible is a cohesive whole and was written by men God inspired to record His words (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- ‘...given by inspiration of God...’ is one Greek word and is literally ‘God-breathed’.
- Just as the Scriptures are God-inspired, so is the interpretation of Scriptures (**2 Peter 1:19-21**).

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*.

- My goal as a pastor/teacher is to study God’s Word in faith, believing them to be true and the source of truth.
- With the help of the Holy Spirit, I seek God’s interpretation and the application He wishes me to share with you.
- And then, when I speak, I trust the Holy Spirit to give me just the right words everyone who has ears to hear needs to hear.
- Your best defense against false teachers is keep growing in your knowledge of God and His Word.
- Learn to hear and trust the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Examine the lives of those you allow to teach you for evidence of God’s presence and godly characteristics, especially humility.
- This is something we need to take seriously. Paul says (**Galatians 6:9**).

A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

- Even a little false teaching can significant damage to your faith.
- That is important because faith is how we are saved and how we live this life (**Romans 1:16-17**).

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

¹⁷ **For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “*The just shall live by faith.*”**

- Protect yourself. Know what you believe.
- Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us love God’s Word more every day. **Pray**
- Worship Team comes up to play the last song!