



Guest Preacher: Cody Vasut
Kingdom Value

Kingdom Vigilance

Matthew 16:1-12

How to Prepare

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

Sermon Outline:

Matthew 16:1-12

1. False Teachers Deny Christ and His Work
2. False Teachers Teach False Doctrine
3. Christ and His Word are Our Refuge from False Teaching

Matthew 16:1-12

Pharisees Test Jesus

- 1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.
- 2 But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.'
- 3 And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?
- 4 An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah." And He left them and went away.
- 5 And the disciples came to the other side of the sea, but they had forgotten to bring any bread.
- 6 And Jesus said to them, "Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."
- 7 They began to discuss this among themselves, saying, "He said that because we did not bring any bread."
- 8 But Jesus, aware of this, said, "You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread?
- 9 Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets full you picked up?
- 10 Or the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many large baskets full you picked up?
- 11 How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."
- 12 Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Discussion Questions

Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 16:1-12.

INTRODUCTION

Here is a question or two to help introduce the topic and jump-start discussion.

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from the sermon?

2. What do you think was the main point or central message of the sermon/text?

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

3. What did this sermon teach you about God, about the gospel, or about yourself?

4. Were there any particular scriptures, stories, or illustrations that resonated with you? Why?

5. Were there any parts of the sermon that you found challenging, confusing, or that you'd like to understand better?

6. How was the biblical text connected to our lives today? Were those connections clear and helpful?

7. What are some of the key theological concepts or principles that were discussed in the sermon?

8. What was the most encouraging aspect of the sermon/text for you?

9. What was the most convicting aspect of the sermon/text for you?

10. What is one thing you feel prompted to do or learn more about as a result of this sermon/text?

Commentary (from ESV Study Bible)

Matt. 13:54–16:20 The Identity of the Messiah Revealed. This section marks a major new emphasis in Matthew's narrative as Jesus' messianic identity is increasingly clarified.

Matt. 16:1–20 Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God. In response to the Pharisees and Sadducees' demand for a sign, Jesus announces he will give no more signs (vv. 1–4) and warns his disciples about the spiritual "leaven" of the Pharisees and Sadducees (vv. 5–12). Jesus then asks his disciples about the identity of the Son of Man (vv. 13–14). Peter rightly confesses Jesus (vv. 15–16), and Jesus in turn makes a pronouncement about Peter (vv. 17–20).

Matt. 16:1 The Pharisees and Sadducees (see note on 3:7) were often bitter opponents, but they joined forces against Jesus, whom they saw as a threat to their leadership and power. They came to Jesus not out of need or genuine faith but to test him. They were seeking a sign or miracle to use against him. See note on 12:38.

Matt. 16:4–5 sign of Jonah. See note on 12:39. other side. See note on 8:28.

Matt. 16:6–12 In contrast to 13:33, here leaven is a negative metaphor to indicate how the evil of corruption can infiltrate and ruin what is good. Cf. Ex. 12:8, 15–20. We brought no bread. The disciples are so preoccupied with their physical needs that they fail to understand that Jesus' reference to leaven is figurative, intended as a spiritual lesson. Following Jesus' rebuke, they finally understood.