

## Matthew 16

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Matthew 16:24

PRAYER: Father, teach me how to "come after Jesus" as I live my life. Help me discover what manner of person I ought to be as I study Matthew 16.

Journal your prayer here:

PREVIEW: In Matthew 16, we see the sign given to a wicked and adulterous generation that seeks after a sign, we learn to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees and what the keys to the kingdom are, we answer the question, "Who do you say Jesus is?", we find out what it takes to come after Jesus, we resolve a paradox that Jesus gives, and we discover the value of our souls, and what manner of persons we ought to be as disciples of Christ.

### Matthew 16 Outline:

Debate Over a Sign from Heaven - Read Matthew 16:1-4

Withdrawal of Jesus - Read Matthew 16:5-12

Revelation of the Person of the King - Read Matthew 16:13-17

Revelation of the Church - Read Matthew 16:18-20

Revelation of Jesus' Death - Read Matthew 16:21-23

Revelation of Jesus' Reward - Read Matthew 16:24-26

The Prophecy of the Second Coming - Read Matthew 16:27-28

## Debate Over a Sign from Heaven-Read Matthew 16:1-4

Matthew 16:1-4 (NKJV)

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

2 He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’;

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.

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.

1. What was the intention of the Pharisees and Sadducees in asking Jesus to show them a sign from heaven (v. 1)?
2. The Pharisees and Sadducees were able to discern the face of the sky by observing it in the morning and evening. What did Jesus say they weren’t able to discern (v. 4)?
3. PRODUCE: Jesus calls the Pharisees and Sadducees “Hypocrites!” for not being able to discern the signs of the time in Matthew 16:3. What “signs of the times” should the Pharisees and Sadducees have been able to discern? (See also Matthew 9:32-34, 15:31.)

4. PROCEED: What sign did Jesus say would be given the wicked and adulterous generation that seeks after a sign (Matthew 16:4)?
  
5. PROPOUND: What does the sign of Jonah represent, and why is that the sign that will be given to the wicked generation? (See Matthew 12:39-41)

## Withdrawal of Jesus - Read Matthew 16:5-12

Matthew 16:5-12 (NKJV)

5 Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

6 Then Jesus said to them, **“Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.”**

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

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?”**

9 **“Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up?”**

10 **“Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up?”**

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.”**

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.

6. What did the disciples forget to bring (v. 5)?
  
7. Jesus tells His disciples to, “take heed,” which means to guard against. What were they to guard against (v. 6)?
  
8. PROPOUND: In Hebrew life, leaven played an important part not only in breadmaking, but also in law, ritual, and religious teachings. Jesus explained to His disciples what He meant by the “leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.” What does that which Jesus told His disciples to take heed against represent (v.12)?
  
9. PRACTICE: Why is it important to take heed against even a little leaven (incorrect doctrine) in our lives? (See Galatians 5:9 and 1 Corinthians 5:6.)
  
10. PROPOUND: Jesus was aware (v. 8) that the disciples thought that He was telling them to take heed and beware because they had forgotten to bring bread (v. 7). Why does Jesus refer to the feeding of the four and five thousand (vv. 9-10)? What were the disciples to understand and remember about these miracles?

## Revelation of the Person of the King - Read Matthew 16:13-17

Matthew 16:13-17 (NKJV)

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, **“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”**

14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 He said to them, **“But who do you say that I am?”**

16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus answered and said to him, **“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**

11. PROPOUND: John the Baptist was known for his proclamation of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 3:2). Elijah was known for his miraculous works and prophetic statements (1 Kings 17-18, 21, 2 Kings 1-2). The prophet Jeremiah was known for his compassion and concern toward God’s people (Jeremiah & Lamentations). Why might the people have said Jesus was one of those men (Matthew 16:14)?

12. Who does Simon Peter proclaim Jesus to be (v. 16)? How does He know this (v. 17)? (See also Matthew 14:33.)

13. PROCLAIM: Jesus asked His disciples, “But who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15). Share with the group your answer to this question “Who do you personally say Jesus is?”

## Revelation of the Church - Read Matthew 16:18-20

Matthew 16:18-20 (NKJV)

18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

14. Jesus used two different words when telling Peter He would build His church. Jesus said, “you are Peter” (Petros), which means small stone. He then said, “and on this rock,” (Petra), which means massive rock. What massive rock is Jesus referring to when He says He is going to build His church upon it? (See Matthew 16:16, Romans 10:9-10.)
15. A key is a sign of authority. Jesus said He would give Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven. How did Peter use these keys? (See Acts 2:38, 15:14,19-20.)

16. Peter has been falsely proclaimed as the first pope because of Matthew 16:18. One of the qualifications for the papacy is infallibility on spiritual matters. Was Peter infallible? (See Matthew 16:23, Galatians 2:11.)
17. PROPOUND: Why do you think Jesus commanded His disciples to not proclaim that He was the Christ? (See also John 6:15, 18:36.)

## Revelation of Jesus' Death - Read Matthew 16:21-23

Matthew 16:21-23 (NKJV)

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

18. What does Jesus begin to show His disciples (v. 21)?
19. Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke Him (v. 22) for the things He was showing to his disciples (v. 21). What was Jesus' response to Peter's rebuke (v. 23)?

20. PROPOUND: Why do you think Jesus told Peter that he was an offense (stumbling block) to Him (v. 23)?

## Revelation of Jesus' Reward - Read Matthew 16:24-26

Matthew 16:24-26 (NKJV)

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

21. PROTECT: Meditate upon the three things that Jesus said were to be done if a person were to come after Him (Matthew 16:24). What are those three things and what do they mean?
22. PROMOTE: When Jesus called His disciples, He said, "Follow me" (Matthew 4:18, 9:9). Share with the group what the life of a person who follows Him should look like.
23. PROPOUND: Matthew 16:25 seems to be a paradox. The person who wants to save his life must lose it. The person who loses his life for Jesus' sake will find it. How do you resolve this paradox?

24. Jesus gives a perspective on the value of a man's soul (the life given to him). What value does He put on a man's soul? (See also Psalm 49:6-9, 1 Peter 1:18-19.)
25. Our souls are extremely valuable from God's perspective—they are worth more than anything and everything in this world. What price did God pay to redeem your soul? (See John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Peter 1:18-19.)
26. Since our souls are so valuable to God and nothing in this world can be given in exchange for them, what manner of persons ought we to be? (See 1 Peter 2:24, 4:1-6, 2 Peter 3:10-13.)

## **The Prophecy of the Second Coming - Read Matthew 16:27-28**

Matthew 16:27-28 (NKJV)

27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

28 "Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

27. Jesus prophesies about His second coming. What did He say He would do when He returns in the glory of His Father with His angels (v. 27)? (See also Romans 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Peter 1:17; Revelation 2:23.)
28. What works do you think Jesus is referring to in Matthew 16:27? (See Ephesians 2:10, Matthew 5:16, 2 Timothy 3:17, Titus 3:8, 1 Peter 2:12.)

**PROCESS:** Review what you've learned in Matthew 16. Highlight what the Lord has shown you so you can share it with the group.

**PRAY:** Father, thank You for valuing my soul so much. Help me to deny myself, take up my cross, and follow You, that I might receive from you eternal rewards for doing the good works You created me to do!

Journal your prayer here: