

Seeking After Signs

Matthew 16:1-12

Intro:

- A. **Jesus did many miracles.**
 - 1. "...great multitudes came unto him..." 15:30
 - 2. "...lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others..."
 - 3. "...cast them down at Jesus feet..."
 - 4. "...and he healed them..."

- B. **Many saw God in these miracles.**
 - 1. They may not have believed Him Messiah.
 - 2. "...they glorified the God of Israel."

- C. **Jesus was moved with compassion.**
 - 1. "...they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat."
 - 2. "And they did all eat..."

- D. **The religious leaders were unconvinced. V.1**
 - 1. "The Pharisees also with the Sadducees."
 - 2. tempting = πειραζω = "to make trial of," 'to put to the test.'
 - 3. "a sign from heaven"
 - 4. sign = σημειον = "a signal," 'an ensign,' 'a standard,' 'a flag,' 'a sign by which anything is designated distinguished, or known.'

I. The Answer Of Jesus.

- A. **They had competence in reading signs in regard to the weather. V.2a**
 - 1. They could foretell fair weather. V.2b
 - 2. They could forecast foul weather. V.3a
 - 3. The disciples had come to the other side. Vs.5,6,7
 - 4. They had forgotten to take bread.

- B. **Jesus warns them.**
 - 1. "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."
 - 2. take heed = οραω = "to see," "bodily sight"

3. beware = προσεχω = "to hold to," "to turn ones thoughts and attention to." "bring near to."
4. keep them in eye-sight and don't let them out of your thinking for a minute.

C. The misunderstanding.

1. reasoned = διαλογιζομαι = "think through" v.7
2. They used word association, "leaven," = bread = "We forgot to bring lunch."
3. Jesus perceived their mistake.
4. Their collective reasoning was flawed. V.8a
5. It was springing from, "little faith." V.8b
6. They had forgotten! V.9-10

D. The explanation. V.11

1. He did not speak of bread.
2. A shortage of bread was not a problem.
3. They should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. This had to do with influencing their thinking and making their own requests for signs.

E. The understanding. V.12

1. understood = συνιημι = "to collect together."
2. doctrine = διδαχη = "process for teaching" "the act of teaching," "the thing taught."

III. The Christian And Signs.

A. True miracles, as signs, have ceased.

1. No Apostolic gifts.
2. Either of life or death.

B. Signs are difficult to interpret.

1. They are left to one's heart.
2. The heart may be deceiving.

C. We think they would be extremely comforting!

1. Stop relying on faith.
2. Stop relying on "cold facts," scripture.

D. Signs will be plentiful in the last days.

1. Signs in the heavens.
2. Signs among men.

E. The best we can do is:

1. Learn the Bible.

2. Believe it above all things.
3. Have faith in truth.