

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

RLJ-1941

JOHN S. TORELL

DECEMBER 10, 2023

PART 42: BEWARE OF THE LEAVEN

PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES

Despite many setbacks, Satan doesn't ever seem to get depressed. He has lost countless battles over the last 6,000 years, but he unyieldingly comes back with new attacks against the Godhead and their people on earth.

In this incident, he sent some Pharisees and Sadducees to harass Jesus. **Matthew 16:1**

The God-man was normally meek and lowly, but He responded harshly to their obvious questionable discernment. **verses 2-3**

There is no doubt that Jesus was upset. It did not matter how much good He did because the Jewish leadership found fault with Him no matter what He did because of their hatred.

When they asked for a sign to verify His calling/divinity, the Son of God retorted that they were wicked and adulterous, and the only sign they would receive was prophetic truth preaching. **verse 4**

Wicked: morally very bad; evil

Adulterous: voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than that person's spouse.

It is obvious the Son of God was not referring to the marriages of Pharisees and Sadducees, but to their spiritual adultery since they embraced the heretical teachings of the Kabbalah and Talmud, and in doing so, ironically violated the commandment of the One standing in front of them.¹ **Exodus 20:1-5**

Once Jesus scolded the religious leadership, He walked away and got into a ship. **Mark 8:12-13**

¹ Most Christians believe that God the Father is the God of the Old Testament and that Jesus is the God of the New Testament, but this is not true. Jesus is the lawgiver of the Old Testament.
www.eaec.org/bookstore/books/god-old-testament-book.htm



HEALING A BLIND MAN

Jesus and the disciples sailed to the city of Bethsaida and from there walked 25 miles north to Caesarea Philippi.

Someone recognized the God-man as soon as He disembarked and a blind man was brought for healing. The people asked Jesus to touch the blind man and restore his sight. **Mark 8:22**

Jesus was unpredictable when it came to healing. Some people were told to go and see a priest and were healed of blindness on the way. Jesus often laid hands on the sick and they were healed. Other times Jesus spoke a word and person was healed. On this occasion, the God-man took the blind man's hand and led him out of town, spit on his eyes, grabbed him by the shoulders and asked what he saw. **verse 23**

The man stated he saw men walking around, but his vision was hazy and they looked like trees. **verse 24**

Jesus touched the man's eyes again and his sight was fully restored. **verse 25**

BEWARE OF HERESY

The disciples realized that they had forgotten to take bread once they arrived at Bethsaida. Most likely this was because they did not anticipate the run-in with the Pharisees and Sadducees and Jesus' abrupt departure. **Matthew 16:5**

Mark wrote they had one loaf of bread in the ship. **Mark 8:14**

When Jesus heard them discussing the food situation, He stated they should be wary of the leaven produced by the Pharisees and Sadducees. **Matthew 16:6**

The disciples were clueless as to what the God-man was trying to tell them and thought He was referring to their food shortage. **verse 7**

Jesus rebuked them and asked if they had forgotten that He twice previously created food and the abundant leftovers each time. **verses 8-10**

Then Jesus clarified that He was referring to the leaven of the religious leaders. Their doctrine was the equivalent of leaven in fresh dough, which when it germinated, would neutralize and destroy the teachings of Jesus. **verses 11-12**

The doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees eventually made its way into the newly formed churches in Galatia and the apostle Paul became angry over this evil and destructive doctrine. **Galatians 3:1-10**

ARRIVING AT CAESAREA PHILIPPI

Caesarea Philippi is located in the Golan Heights at the foot of Mount Hermon. The city was destroyed during the Six Day War in 1967 and subsequently abandoned. It was declared a nature preserve by the Israel Nature and Parks Authorities in 1977. The site is known for a natural spring that feeds the Banias River and serves as one of the main tributaries of the Jordan River.

The Sea of Galilee rests 686 feet below sea level and Caesarea Philippi was 1,836 feet higher at 1,150 feet above sea level. There was an incline as Jesus and the disciples made the estimated two-day journey from Bethsaida. **Matthew 16:13**

CONFESSION OF PETER

Jesus had the capacity to read minds. When people approached the God-man, He knew their thoughts; nothing was hidden from Jesus. **Matthew 9:4; 12:25; Luke 6:8**

When Jesus asked his disciples who they thought that He was, it was not for His own benefit, but to give them an opportunity to openly confess what they believed about the God-man. **Matthew 16:14**

The disciples repeated what the people believed, but Jesus wanted to know what they actually believed. **verse 15**

Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God. **verse 16**

Jesus declared Peter's confession had been given by the Holy Spirit. Then the Son of God said the church would be built on Himself and none of Lucifer's actions would succeed in destroying it. **verses 17-18**

- ❖ Jesus is the foundation. **1 Corinthians 3:13**
- ❖ Jesus is the rock. **1 Corinthians 10:4**
- ❖ Jesus is the cornerstone. **Ephesians 2:20**
- ❖ Jesus is the chief cornerstone. **1 Peter 2:4-8**

*The Church of Jesus Christ is not built upon the
apostle Peter, but upon your confession that Jesus is
the Messiah and the Son of God.*

Any person that confesses Jesus as the Messiah is born again. The Son of God has the keys to the kingdom of heaven to bind and loose as He desires. **Matthew 16:19**

Jesus has given Christians authority over the kingdom of Satan. **Matthew 10:1; 7-8**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?