

## Lesson 27 Matthew 16 1-12(5)

### Jesus teaches about the importance of sound doctrine

#### *The religious sects seek a sign*

Sects deal heavily in signs. Jehovah Witnesses have pulled dates out of a hat for the coming kingdom based on earthquakes and disasters. Mormons talk about angels and golden plates. The Pharisees and Sadducees wanted a big sign performed on cue. Jesus responded that they were adept in interpreting interpret the sky portents of the weather but inept in understanding scripture as to the present. He further indicated that the story of the book of Jonah was of the highest contemporary relevance. "As Jonah was 3 days and nights in the fish's belly so the Son of man would be three days in the heart of the earth" Matthew 12.40

#### *The disciple's discussion*

They could not imagine what warning on leaven and the religious leaders might signify. They came to the view that Jesus was rebuking them for not bringing loaves with them perhaps to boycott the area of Tiberias where these hypocritical leaders had their power base-and not to eat the bread from bakers that they accredited as kosher.

#### *The idea of leaven*

The Lord turned to His disciples (v.5) and said, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Their teaching took minor points of law and made them of mountainous importance. The penny dropped-words of the Master came back-'they tithe mint and anise and cumin and neglect righteousness and judgement' .The leaven of unbalanced doctrine.

#### *Little faiths*

Jesus reminded them of the 5 loaves and the five thousand and the 7 loaves and the four thousand-also about the number of baskets. That number was 12 within the boundaries of Israel where the feeding of the five thousand took place and it was 7 on the Greek side-so Jesus was willing to provide for all the 12 tribes of Jews and all the Gentiles-He was not in the boycott business-He did not draw circles of exclusion.

(1) Matthew 6.30 "If God clothes the grass will he not much more clothe you, you little faiths" (also Lk.12 .28)

(2) 8.26 Lord we are going to drown. "You little faiths, why are you afraid?"

(3)14.31 Jesus reached out His hand and caught Peter, "You little faith, why did you doubt?"

(4)16.8 "Remember the extravagant supplies -the baskets-you little-faiths"



#### *From Paper to Practice*

Why do we need to be well-balanced in teaching scripture?

What are the fundamentals that Evangelical Christians need to emphasise?

Choose fundamental beliefs from the following list:

The Atonement; the gift of hospitality; the universal sinfulness of mankind; the use of stringed instruments in divine worship; the virgin birth of Jesus; the observance of the day of Pentecost each year; the return of Christ for His church; the Resurrection; Justification by Faith; the second blessing; The verbal inspiration of scripture as originally given; the sovereignty of God; The decrees of God; a possible mid tribulation rapture.