

SERMON REFLECTIONS

Who do you say that I am?

Matthew 16 | 25 June 2023 | Mr Kannan Kumaran

Sermon Reflection Questions:

1. Do you not yet perceive?
2. Who do you say I am?
3. What shall a man give in return for his soul?

Matthew 16:1-12

“And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.”

So he left them and departed. When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. Jesus said to them, “Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, “We brought no bread.”

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To be disciples of Jesus Christ

Our Mission

We exist to make disciples who love God, love one another and love the lost



SERMON REFLECTIONS

But Jesus, aware of this, said, “O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Leaven

Disposition of non-acceptance towards the Person of Christ. They were opposed to Him not really because of His message or even His person, but they were opposed to Him because of what it would mean for their lives.

Matthew 16:2-3

“He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.”

How often do we test God and hope that he fails so that **we don't have to do what we know we must?**

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So focused on meeting their immediate need, so focused on the food and their stomachs that they failed to understand that the Lord was using physical examples to express a deep spiritual truth.

We worry incessantly about things, yes, important things, but does our worry not inherently show how little we accept Jesus and His truths into our lives?

How often do we think about our unchanged lives? Are we not perceiving?

Do we fail to understand that our worry shows us our lack of faith? And our lack of faith shows us how little we know and accept Jesus' truths?

Do you not yet perceive?
Who do you say that I am?

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,

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SERMON REFLECTIONS

but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.”

And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

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

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.””

Matt 16:21

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer..

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Matt 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

“Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.”

Get behind me, Satan!

Peter wanted glory BUT Jesus chose calvary

“We know, from God’s Word, Jesus’ true identity as God’s Son, but it is so easy for us to limit his impact on our life when we are preoccupied with earthly goals. It is so natural and comfortable for us to set our minds on human comfort, security, success, and prosperity that we forget our divine call to sacrifice and service. So we can see that Peter’s perspective was wrong. God’s plan included suffering and death for the Messiah. Jesus would fulfill his mission exactly as planned.”

Bruce Barton

What about your perspective of Christ?

Does your answer confront the way you are living right at this very moment? Does it confront what your deepest hopes for life are?

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SERMON REFLECTIONS

Who do you say that He is?

Far be it from You Lord to tell me what I must do with my life. I can figure that out on my own. Let me just sacrifice till the point that is comfortable for me. Anything more cannot be the call of God; it cannot be what God is telling me to do.

Have we watered down his words?

OR

Are we ignoring what He says?

“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.””

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?

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