

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 16:

vs. 1-4:

The Pharisees and Sadducees came looking for a sign from Jesus that He was the Messiah. Jesus denied them for they were not willing to recognize the signs that had already been given, even though they would quickly recognize and heed the signs of nature. He does tell them that the sign of Jonah would be given (meaning that as Jonah was in the Fish for 3 days and nights, so Jesus would be buried for 3 days).

vs. 5-12:

Jesus warned His disciples about the Pharisees and Sadducees teaching and that it might deceive them. They thought at first that He was warning them about the food that the Pharisees and Sadducees might help provide, but after reminding them of the feeding of the 5,000 and of the 4,000 they then understood His warning.

vs. 13-20:

Jesus asked His disciples who the people were saying that He was. While there in Caesarea Philippi, they informed Him that some were claiming that He was one of the Prophets of God, although they did not agree which one He was. When asked what they thought, Peter replied, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God". This is known as the Good Confession. Peter was stating that Jesus was the Messiah and that He was Gods' Son.

Jesus then told Peter that this had been revealed to him (Peter) by God. On that confession, Christ would build His Church and the gates of Hell would not prevail. That means that the Church is doing the moving and conquering, not standing still trying to defend. Jesus also informs them that all that they teach will have come from God. He warned them not to tell anyone, at that time, that He was the Messiah.

vs. 21-28:

Now that they knew Him to be the Messiah, Jesus began teaching and explaining that He would have to go to Jerusalem, be mistreated and even killed. The good news was that after being dead for 3 days, He would be raised back to life. Peter did not want to see Jesus have to go through that ordeal and spoke his mind. Jesus rebuked Peter for Peter was not thinking of Gods' will, but his own. In this way, Peter was tempting Christ just as Satan would.

Jesus then taught His followers that if they really wanted to follow Him, then they must be willing to give up everything, even be willing to suffer for Him. Then when He returned with His angels, He would reward each of His followers for their faithfulness. He went on to say that some of them would be alive when the Kingdom came (this would include the start of the Church and judgement on Israel for rejection of Jesus. The judgement being the destruction of Jerusaem in 70 A.D.)

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 16:

1. What did the Pharisees and Sadducees ask for?
2. What sign would be given?
3. What did Jesus tell the disciples to be on guard against?
4. What did the disciples think Jesus was talking about?
5. What 2 miracles does Jesus remind them of?
6. What did the disciples then understand?
7. Who were people saying that Jesus was?
8. What did Peter say?
9. What will not overcome Christ's Church?
10. What will be bound and loosed?
11. What did Jesus then explain to them?
12. What must those who want to go after Jesus, do?

BONUS:

1. Whose teaching should we be on guard against?
2. What does verse 18 suggest to you?
3. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?

