

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Hypocrites!

Matthew 16:1-12

“It’s been said...

“Your witness is not what you say, but who you are”

Kids’ karate teachers

Glimpses of their skill, can’t fake it

Street smarts vs book smarts

You can tell when someone is just talking but they’ve never actually done it

Knowing what God’s word means...only truly in obedience

Know Jesus more. All of this should lead you to that.

Not just know the songs. Not just know the verses and answers. But actually know Him more. Hear His voice speaking to you in your life - and obeying him. Following Him when he says or goes or is quiet and doesn’t go where you want to go.

To be a disciple (student) of The Teacher, but to be a Son or Daughter in heart.

That’s what God cares about. The heart behind it.

Yes, outward correctness matters. But not at the expense of the inward.

Today, Jesus calls out the Pharisees as hypocrites

Websters

1: a person who puts on a false appearance of virtue or religion

2: a person who acts in contradiction to his or her stated beliefs or feelings

Classically in theater

Masks, happy face, sad face (comedy, tragedy)

Putting on a face that isn’t yours to the world

Sadly, what the world (perhaps rightly) calls Christians.

Fake, plastic, do what I say not what I do.

[Pray]

16:1

Here we go again...the Scribes & Pharisees...
This time..testing him

Who tests God? Those who don't have faith.

Their motive? Not to prove He's God, but prove He isn't.

What does one without faith want? Signs.

Be careful seeking after signs.

Signs can help lead us - but they're not even remotely close to the primary way God communicates with us.

We end up looking for them. Not being satisfied.

Making signs out of things that aren't signs.

Desperate, immature. I've done it before, but don't do it anymore.

It's superstition. They don't come.

We start looking for the signs instead of looking for God.

Sometimes it's evidence we don't want to hear from God we just want to see Him.

- Rom 10:17 Faith comes by hearing...hearing by the word of God
- Heb 11:1 Evidence of things not seen

:2-4

The weather report

If we didn't have the weather report, some days you'd have no idea
Beautiful in the morning, blizzard by afternoon

Weatherman mountain, Hamilton

Looking to the hills west of us, Helena

Hypocrites!

See the face of the sky

But don't see it the times

(they don't see The Messiah right in front of them)

Many can see the heavenly weather

Many can see the stars in space

But they can't see the things of heaven!

They claim to know God in heaven, speak for heaven, are on their way to heaven but have no idea what heaven is actually like, what heaven actually says, or what it actually takes to get there!

2 Peter 2:12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,

Do we?

Are our heads buried?

Do we pay attention to the times? The news? The spiritual climate?

Say it doesn't matter, doesn't affect it, can't be

*Asteroids, World politics, global alliances, Technology, World spirit
END TIMES!*

But if we don't read God's news report, how will we understand what's going on?

Friends over for dinner

Talking with pastor friend, about getting people sold out for Jesus, understanding and wanting to do the work

It's the Word! It's sufficient! We have what the world doesn't

Church needs to lift up the word because it's how people will believe

How people will see, How people will know God

Grow in Him, Follow him

Won't be able to look away

Won't eat from the wrong trough

So many "churches" hold up signs and wonders and miss the most wonder-ful being in the universe - Jesus

And don't see that they are a sign - of the end-times, lukewarmness, or a church out of order

Romans 1 abandonment judgment

Wicked and adulterous generation

The Pharisees and Sadducees and those who seek after them

Adultery also used in the Bible to describe leaving our relationship with God

Israel many times went after other Gods.

The Pharisees certainly weren't truly worshipping God.

They worshipped the Law. Self-righteousness. Their Jewish heritage and tradition. Teachings of men.

Sign of the prophet Jonah

- In the whale 3 days, rises from the "dead" was he dead
- Preaches, even Ninevah repents
- Jesus would be in the heart of the earth for 3 days
- Rise from the dead
- Even the gentiles would repent

Jesus does the opposite..."Jesus gets us" ad made by the Pharisees H

He sure does get the Pharisees. That's why he gives them a terse truth and leaves.

Psalm 18:26 With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.

:5

Forgotten to take bread...I mean Jesus kept multiplying it...

Forgetful and not responsible

One thing to forget lunch when you're running out the door

But all 12 of them and nobody said we're out of food?

Each one probably thought someone else would take care of it. That's not my problem.

Nothing worse than getting home from the store and realizing you didn't get what you needed

Trying to wing it without a list is a bad idea!

:6-7

Did Jesus know the whole time?

Did he let them get into the place of lack, due to their forgetfulness,
in order to **teach them an important lesson?**

Or did he see that they didn't at this point and use it as a **teachable moment?**

Slow going disciples...Jesus didn't call the geniuses

Picture them walking...disciples maybe a little ways away, following. Jesus starts talking about leaven of the guys they were just around

Disciples mutter quietly...it's because we forgot the bread, he's picking on us for being dopes

Although important, Jesus wasn't primarily concerned so much about their organization skills or IQ But their Spiritual aptitude!

Can you and I discern spiritual lessons out of what we see and experience in life?

Can we discern good teachings from bad?

Things done out of order and not?

It's amazing how many can't and are involved or look up to pharisees, legalism, tradition or get wound up in the things of this world by the sadducees and don't see the spiritual world at work

Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

- Leaven - yeast, bread rising
- "Little leaven leavens the whole lump"
- Leaven a picture of sin and corruption in the Bible
- Unleavened bread passover / communion

So, what is the sin of the Pharisees and Sadducees?

- Evil influence
- False doctrine
- Hypocrisy

"False doctrine; which is fitly called leaven, because it soureth, swelleth, spreadeth, corrupteth the whole lump, and all this secretly." (Trapp)

2 Timothy 2:15-16, 18 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane [and] idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. ... who have strayed

concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

2 Peter 2:1-3 - But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, [and] bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

I guarantee, and I've even visited churches right here in Helena, where false doctrine was being taught, amen'd and promoted in the pulpit

Acts 17:11 These [Bereans] were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily [to find out] whether these things were so.

:8-12

Jesus being aware of it...

Be careful little eyes what you see

Be careful little feet where you go

Nothing gets by the Lord.

Don't think he doesn't see you. He cares about you. He's watching over you. Whatever you're going through, He's right there with the answer, the way out, a comfort, a correction. Whatever it is you need to get into a better place. Be closer to Him.

No need to reason amongst yourselves.

The disciples - not spiritually minded!

Their concern over the physical - the bread -

Jesus tries to point them to the spiritual, the "leaven"

His concern was over their lack of faith, not lack of bread

Do we ever consider this might be what God is getting at when we lack the physical?

Increasing our faith?

When we have a need, and we pray, and wait for God's answer (not idly, but putting our trust in God while we go to the field to glean) - that's how we see him answer

If we don't have need, we won't ask, we won't see him answer

...harder for a rich man ...

Understand or remember?

- Five loaves, 12 baskets?
- Seven loaves, seven baskets?

Jesus is saying *they should have gotten it by now...*

But they hadn't considered.

- The events they saw.
- The miracles they witnessed.
- The food they ate.
- All came and went.

In one ear and out the other.

We must apply our faith

Obey the scriptures

Pray for things

If we want to grow in our walk

How is it you don't understand?

It's really pretty simple!

DGC: Charged his disciples with three things: Ignorance, Unbelief, Forgetfulness

God has given every opportunity for them to see and believe

To know and understand

To have faith

But that's what they lack more than bread...

Jesus, manna from heaven

Bread of life

How long do we go about the things OF God

Church, teachings, devotions, etc.

But we haven't known Him more?

Jesus repeats himself: Beware of the leaven of the pharisees and sadducees

It wasn't just those men and their behavior

But their doctrine that was the problem

"From doctrine flows all else" Worldview. Behavior. Family structure. Life goals.

Attitudes. Actions. All flow from what we believe to be true.

Is God holy? Or just the man upstairs
Your life will show it

Is God your lover and best friend or a distant, unknown being?
Your worship will reflect it.

It's one and the same
Knowing God rightly comes through knowing His word rightly.

“Preach the Gospel at all times; use words if necessary”

Many people are very staunch and genuine in their beliefs about God.
 The God they know and worship.
But they're flat out wrong.

Jesus is it. He is the Son of the Living God.
He is the Word of the Living God.

The Word reveals Him. He reveals the Word.

If the Bible teaching doesn't reveal Jesus as He's revealed in scripture
If the practices of the leadership or the people don't align with scripture
If scripture is out of context
If it's twisted and contorted to fulfill the flesh and deny the spirit
Reject it, run away from it, call it out

But if it reveals Jesus through scripture
If it obeys the Holy Spirit, as seen in scripture
If it denies the flesh and lives for the spirit
Accept it, embrace it, live it, share it

Hypocrisy shows one face but conceals another

The Pharisees claimed to reveal God
 Looked like God's messengers to the people.
 But they weren't. They were the very opposite.

Jesus looked like a heretic to some
 But He revealed who God was truly. Looking at Jesus was looking at God.

A true witness of God reveals the One who is True, Jesus
 In word, in deed, in love, in obedience. **Just as Jesus did.**