

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon
March 19, 2023
Matthew chapter 16 “Faith, Truth, Love”

I. Introduction:

Read Jonah 1:15-2:1, 10

† Chapter 16 introduces numerous notable things including the first mention by Jesus of the Church; as well, Jesus introduces the concept of His death and resurrection to His disciples.

† This chapter shows us 4 types of Faith:

- v. 1-4 “No Faith”
- v. 5-12 “Little Faith”
- v. 13-20 “Confessing Faith”
- v. 21-28 “Serving Faith”

II. No Faith: Pharisees & Sadducees

A. The Pharisees and the Sadducees

Matthew 16:1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

† The **Pharisees** were very Conservative (Theologically) and Lived according to the traditions of the oral law – they “**ADDED**” to the Law of Moses

† But they Believed in the spiritual world, including Angels / demons / Resurrection

† The **Sadducees** were Very Liberal (Theologically): they Rejected the oral law and Did NOT believe in the spiritual world thus No angels / no demons / No resurrection - they “**took away**” from the Law of Moses

† But, they agreed on their hatred of Jesus—both groups wanted Him dead...And they asked him for a sign from heaven: “from” ἐκ (out of) Something they could see as dramatic and miraculous

Matthew 16:2-3 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. 3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? 4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

† **Mariners:** “Red sky in the morning, sailors take warning; red sky at night, sailor's delight”

† Yet, Jesus “was” the sign: **Simeon in the temple:** “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and

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rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against" (Luke 2:34)

- † Sent from the Father to the earth as Predicted by the prophets: He is the "Lamb of God" slain before the foundation of the World.
- † Jesus is the demonstration of God's love for mankind – He's the sin payment for the world -- "IF" they will receive Him as their Lord and Savior!
- † Jesus said they were "Good" at seeing the natural; but "Lousy" at seeing the supernatural: Even though He had Raised people from the dead, Made the blind see, & Made deaf hear
- † (v.3) Signs of the "Times": Times is kairos- eras, seasons: In God's redemptive history, this WAS the season of the Messiah on earth. Jesus held them responsible because as "Good" Bible students, they should have known
- † Sign of the prophet Jonah: "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:40) - It was a picture of the death and resurrection of Christ!
- † Similarly, we should know the season we are in: 2 Timothy 3:1-5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

III. The Disciples: Little Faith

Matthew 16:5-7 And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. 6 Then Jesus said unto them, take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. 7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, it is because we have taken no bread.

† The Disciple's minds were on the physical: they were Disciples like us...kind of slow.

Matthew 16:8-12 Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? 9 Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? 10 Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? 11 How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? 12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

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† **Doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees: adding and subtracting from the Word...Both legalism and liberalism will corrupt the church.**

IV. Saving Faith

Matthew 16:13-15 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

† **Setting: Away from the crowd; a private place in Caesarea Philippi... ~25 miles NNE of Galilee**

† **"Who do men say I, the Son of Man, am?" (v.13)**

† **"Son of Man": Used 100 times in the gospels / Jesus identifying with mankind**

† **John the Baptist: As John was bold and uncompromising, so was Jesus (see Matthew 3:7)**

† **Elijah: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse" (Malachi 4:5-6)**

† **Jeremiah: The "weeping prophet", a Man of deep emotion & compassion, similarly, Jesus wept over Jerusalem**

Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

† **Christ is His title: the Messiah or Anointed One.**

† **Son of God – ("He IS GOD") / His is the Essence and has the nature of the Father**

Matthew 16:17-18 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

† **Catholic church teaches the primacy of Peter - they say he was the first pope**

† **The Pope is called the "Vicar of Christ" which means; "The Replacement for Christ".**

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- † **No person replaces Christ – He is God and there is no man who can replace Him.**
- † **Peter, himself, doesn't see this...1 Peter 2:6** Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.
- † **Church not built on Peter: It would be a weak church, if it were built upon man's shoulders!**
- † **And this was not the understanding of the apostles...James was in charge of the early church and Peter submitted to him**
- † **Rather, it is a play on words:**
 - † Πέτρος; petros – pebbles or a piece of a rock
 - † πέτρα; petra – (feminine) mass of rock
- † **"You are a little pebble but upon this massive stone I will build my church"**
- † **Isaiah 28:16** Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.
- † **1 Corinthians 3:11** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ

Matt 16:18c and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- † **"Hell" is *hades*, the holding place of the dead. This verse speaks to the fact that the strategies of Satan will not prevail against the church (in the bigger picture).**

Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- † **Keys were an implement of authority**
- † **If you have the keys, you have control; you are in the position of a steward**
- † **Revelation 3:7** And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;
- †
- † **Peter acted as steward of the kingdom**
 - † **Opened the doors wide on Pentecost when 3000 were saved (Acts 2:38-39)**
 - † **Opened the door of faith for the Gentiles with Cornelius (Acts 10:34-44)**

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V. Serving Faith

A. Where’s Our Heart?

Matthew 16:21-23 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. 22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

† We move from “Saving Faith” to “Serving Faith” ...serving Jesus Christ!

† “*Thou Savourest*” – He’s saying to **PETER**, your interests are in the things that are NOT of God!
You are interested in the things of this world!

† **Matthew 15:7-8** Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

† **1 John 2:15** Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. *If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

B. Following Jesus

Matthew 16:24-26 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

† Serving Jesus begins with the “right” heart...we must “want” to: it’s a “get to”, not a “got to”

† Become “selfless” – that’s what Jesus did!

† **Mark 10:45** For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

† Serving Jesus means we learn to Love Unconditionally & Sacrificially

† **John 15:12-13** This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

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C. Our Reward

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

✝ **Romans 14:7-11** For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. 10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

VI. Conclusion

Mat 16:28 Verily I say unto you, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

- ✝ **This verse leads us directly into the next chapter...**
- ✝ **What do we walk away with from this chapter?**
- ✝ **Hold fast to our Faith trusting only the Bible – not adding or subtracting...**
- ✝ **Walk in love – loving unconditionally as Jesus does...**
- ✝ **Serve our Master out of love because He loved us first and died to save us.**