

Next Steps: Jesus has a lot of negative things to say about the “religious leaders” of His time. There were a few notable exceptions, but most of them were looking for ways to “trip” Jesus up so they could discredit him. They were not all that interested in following Jesus. In Matthew 16:1-12 we see these religious leaders “testing” Jesus by asking for a “sign from heaven.”

- Jesus had already shown them over 18 miracles in Matthew 8,9,12,14 & 15. Essentially, Jesus said he was only going to give one more sign. Read Jonah 2:6. What was that sign going to be?

- We too often forget all that God has done in us and for us. Why is it important to remember God’s compassionate care?

- Read 1 Chronicles 16:8-12. What did King David want done when he brought the arc of the covenant back to Jerusalem?

- Spend some time this week remembering God’s work in your life. Write down 10 ways God has provided for you. Thank Him for each of these things, always having your best interest at heart.

- Sometimes we find the Bible challenging to comprehend... what with all the strange names, various nuances of translations, and the vastly different cultural situations. As a result, we don’t always spend as much time reading the Bible as we should. This leaves us vulnerable to bad teaching. What does Jesus equate “bad teaching” to in Matthew 16:11-12?

- Read Matthew 4:4, Hebrews 4:12 and James 1:5, How do we protect ourselves against “bad teaching?”

- What can you do this week to help your “read the signs” of how Jesus fulfills the prophecies of Scripture as the Messiah... and change your hard heart in to a person that follows Jesus whole-heartedly?

Next Week: Join us next Sunday as we take a look at Matthew 16:13-28 and examine how we can move from the top of the mountain to the depths of the valley when we are not willing to submit our will to the will of God.