

MATTHEW

October 30, 2022

Matthew 16:1-12

READ

Matthew 16:1-12 Mark 8:11-21

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. Is there anything striking about the coalition of the Pharisees & Sadducees (v. 1)? Why would they team up against Jesus?

2. What is the purpose of the Pharisees & Sadducees (v. 1)? What do they hope to accomplish?

What is the nature of this sign they request?

3. How does Jesus respond (vv. 2-3)?

What is suggested by quoting this proverb? (What are the key words?)

4. What is unique about the phrase “the signs of the times”? (What, specifically, are “the times” to which it refers?)

Who seeks after a sign (v. 4)?

How should this color our attitude, or approach, toward “signs”?

5. What is the only sign Jesus will give? Compare this with 12:38-40 & John 2:19-22. What makes this the supreme & all-sufficient “sign”?

6. As the scene shifts to the disciples, what is on the mind of the disciples (v. 5) and what is on the mind of Jesus (v. 6)?

7. Why is there misunderstanding or confusion (v. 8)?

What are the obstacles that impede faith? What gets in the way of your faith?

8. What is “the leaven” of the Pharisees & Sadducees (v. 12)? Why use that metaphor?

Why does this call for such warning & watchfulness?

How is the Apostle Paul’s warning to the Ephesian elders similar to Jesus’ warning to the disciples (Acts 20:25-32)?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

I will be more discerning of the times this week by . . .

I will be more watchful this week by . . .