

***STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW***  
***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

**Lesson 65 - The Demand for a Sign - Matthew 16:1-4**

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

*Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.*

MT 16:1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.

MT 16:2 He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' [3] and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. [4] A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Lesson 65 - The Demand for a Sign - Matthew 16:1-4**

780. Who approached Jesus? (16:1)
781. What were the people who approached Jesus really doing? (16:1)
782. What request did the people make of Jesus? (16:1)
783. Jesus answered the Pharisees and Sadducees by talking about what? (16:2)
784. What did a red sky at night mean in this context? (16:2)
785. What did a red sunrise indicate in this context? (16:3)
786. Why did Jesus chastise the Pharisees and Sadducees? (16:3-4)
787. What kind of generation did Jesus say looks for a sign? (16:4)
788. What single sign did Jesus offer? (16:4)
789. What did Jesus do after speaking with the Pharisees and Sadducees? (16:4)

**Lesson 66 - The Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees - Matthew 16:5-12**

MT 16:5 When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. [6] "Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

MT 16:7 They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread."

MT 16:8 Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? [9] Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? [10] Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? [11] How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." [12] Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **Lesson 66 - The Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees - Matthew 16:5-12**

790. Where were Jesus and His disciples traveling? (16:5)
791. What did the disciples forget to pack? (16:5)
792. What warning did Jesus issue to His followers? (16:6)
793. Whom did Jesus mention in His warning? (16:6)
794. How did the disciples misunderstand Jesus' comments? (16:7)
795. What did Jesus say the disciples lacked? (16:8)
796. What did Jesus' disciples fail to understand? (16:9)
797. What did Jesus' disciples forget? (16:9)
798. What recent incidents did Jesus cite to make His point? (16:9-10)
799. How did Jesus clarify His remarks about yeast? (16:11)
800. What was Jesus encouraging His disciples to avoid? Why? (16:11-12)
801. What happened when Jesus explained His words? (16:12)
802. How can we judge whether the spiritual teaching we receive is healthy or dangerous?

## **Lesson 67 - Peter's Confession of Christ - Matthew 16:13-20**

MT 16:13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

MT 16:14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

MT 16:15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

MT 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

MT 16:17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. [18] And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. [19] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." [20] Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **Lesson 67 - Peter's Confession of Christ - Matthew 16:13-20**

803. In what region did the events of this passage take place? (16:13)
804. What broad, impersonal question did Jesus ask His disciples? (16:13)
805. What different answers did Christ get to His question? (16:14)
806. What pointed personal question did Christ ask His followers? (16:15)
807. Who spoke up in answer to Christ's question? (16:16)
808. What answer did Peter give? (16:16)
809. Why was Peter blessed? (16:17)
810. In what way is coming to faith and understanding the gospel a supernatural event? (16:17)
811. What kind of leadership role did Jesus predict for Peter? (16:18)
812. What did Jesus promise about the Church? (16:18)
813. What authority did Jesus promise to Peter? (16:19)

814. Against what did Jesus warn His disciples at the conclusion of this discussion? Why? (16:20)

### **Lesson 68 - Jesus Predicts His Death - Matthew 16:21-28**

MT 16:21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

MT 16:22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

MT 16:23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

MT 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. [25] For whoever wants to save his life\* will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. [26] What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? [27] For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. [28] I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Lesson 68 - Jesus Predicts His Death - Matthew 16:21-28**

815. What did Christ begin telling His disciples would eventually happen to Him? (16:21)

816. How did Christ say He would suffer? (16:21)

817. Who did Christ say would oppose Him and make Him suffer? (16:21)

818. What did Christ say would happen after He was killed? (16:21)

819. How did Peter react to the news that Jesus would suffer and die? (16:22)

820. How did Jesus characterize Peter's objections? (16:23)

821. What is required of the one who would follow Jesus? (16:24)

822. What two ways can a person lose his or her life? (16:25)

823. A person's soul is more valuable than what? How? (16:26)
824. What did Jesus say would happen after His death and resurrection? (16:27)
825. What will happen after Christ returns? (16:27)
826. What did Jesus promise His disciples? (16:28)
827. What does it mean to you to "take up your cross" and follow Jesus?