

Faith on the Roller Coaster

When No One Gets It

June 14, 2009

Matthew 16:1-12

¹ And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. ² He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' ³ And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. ⁴ An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." So he left them and departed.

⁵ When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. ⁶ Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ⁷ And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, "We brought no bread." ⁸ But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? ⁹ Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? ¹⁰ Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? ¹¹ How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ¹² Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Discussion Questions

Do you remember a time when someone was explaining something to you and you just didn't 'get it'?
Why didn't you 'get it'?

Why did the Pharisees and Sadducees ask for a sign?
Why did Jesus refuse to give them a sign?
What is Jesus' response to them?

Do we ever come to Jesus with our mind made up?
In what way?

Why did the disciples miss what Jesus was trying to tell them?

What was Jesus' response to their confusion?
How did He open their eyes?

What are we missing when we aren't listening to what Jesus is telling us?
How can we ensure our hearts and minds are open to hear from God?