

Matthew 16:5-12

Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

Matthew 16:5-8

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?"

Matthew 16:9-12

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.

Failure #1 – They don't understand

“do you not yet perceive?” (9)

“How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” (11)

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. (12)

Failure #2 – They have “little faith”

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?

Leaven – Teaching of the P&S

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.**

The focus of leaven is on the corrupting influence of the Pharisees and Sadducees teaching.

Leaven – Teaching of the P&S

- Hypocrisy (Luke 12:56)
- Traditions embraced over Obeying God's Word (The Pharisees)
- Dismissing the Miraculous (The Sadducees)
- Attitude of Disbelief (Mt 16:1-4)

You of “little faith”

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?

Jesus reminds them of God’s Provision

If Jesus can care for the 5000, and the 4000, he can care for the disciples.

You of “little faith”

Each time Matthew uses the phrase “you of little faith” the focus is on trusting God to care for the disciples welfare.

Matthew 6:28–30 ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

You of “little faith”

Each time Matthew uses the phrase “you of little faith” the focus is on trusting God to care for the disciples welfare.

Matthew 8:26 And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

You of “little faith”

Each time Matthew uses the phrase “you of little faith” the focus is on trusting God to care for the disciples welfare.

Matthew 14:31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Matthew 6:31-33

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.