



# SUNDAY CLASS

3/22/09

## Key Verses: Matthew 16: 5-12

### Matthew 16:5-12 (New International Version)

#### The Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees

**<sup>5</sup>When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. <sup>6</sup>"Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."**

**<sup>7</sup>They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread."**

**<sup>8</sup>Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? <sup>9</sup>Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? <sup>10</sup>Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? <sup>11</sup>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." <sup>12</sup>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.**



#### ***Jesus Always Teaching - But Now Asking, "Do You Not Understand?"***

*"We have here Christ's discourse with his disciples concerning bread, in which, as in many other discourses, he speaks to them of spiritual things under a similitude, and they misunderstand him of carnal things. The occasion of it was, their forgetting to victual their ship, and to take along with them provisions for their family on the other side of the water;*

usually they carried bread along with them, because they were sometimes in desert places; and when they were not, yet they would not be burthensome. But now they forgot; we will hope it was because their minds and memories were filled with better things."

**\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE**

### Matthew 16:5 (New International Version)

#### The Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees

**<sup>5</sup>When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread.**

### Matthew 16:6 (New International Version)

**<sup>6</sup>"Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."**

"He had now been discoursing with the Pharisees and Sadducees, and saw them to be men of such a spirit, that it was necessary to caution his disciples to have nothing to do with them. Disciples are in most danger from hypocrites; against those that are openly vicious they stand upon their guard, but against Pharisees, who are great pretenders to devotion, and Sadducees, who pretend to a free and impartial search after truth, they commonly lie unguarded: and therefore the caution is doubted, Take heed, and beware. The corrupt principles and practices of the Pharisees and Sadducees are compared to leaven; they were souring, and swelling, and spreading, like leaven; they fermented wherever they came."

**\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE**

### Matthew 3:7 (New International Version)

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

### Matthew 8:15 (New International Version)

<sup>15</sup>He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

### Luke 12:1 (New International Version)

#### Warnings and Encouragements

<sup>1</sup>Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

### 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 (New International Version)

<sup>6</sup>Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? <sup>7</sup>Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

### Galatians 5:9 (New International Version)

<sup>9</sup>"A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."

### Matthew 16:7 (New International Version)

<sup>7</sup>**They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread."**

"They thought Christ hereby yelled at them for their improvidence and forgetfulness, that they were so busy attending to his discourse with the Pharisees, that therefore they forgot their private concerns. Or, because having no bread of their own with them, they must be beholden to their friends for supply, he would not have them to ask it of the Pharisees and Sadducees, nor to receive of their alms, because he would not so far as to depend on them; or, for fear, lest, under pretence of feeding them, they should do them a mischief. Or, they took it for a caution, not to be familiar with the Pharisees and Sadducees, not to eat with them (Proverbs 23:6), whereas the danger was not in their bread (Christ himself did eat with them, Luke 7:36; 11:37; 14:1), but in their principles."

**\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE**

### Proverbs 23:6 (New International Version)

<sup>6</sup> Do not eat the food of a stingy man,  
do not crave his delicacies;

### Luke 7:36 (New International Version)

#### Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman

<sup>36</sup>Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

### Luke 11:37 (New International Version)

#### Six Woes

<sup>37</sup>When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table.

## Luke 14:1 (New International Version)

### Jesus at a Pharisee's House

<sup>1</sup>One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

## Matthew 16:8 (New International Version)

**<sup>8</sup>Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?"**

*"He reproves their distrust of his ability and readiness to supply them in this strait (v. 8); "O ye of little faith, why are ye in such perplexity because ye have taken no bread, that ye can mind nothing else, that ye think your Master is as full of it as you, and apply every thing he saith to that?" He does not chide them for their little forecast, as they expected he would."*

\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

## Matthew 6:30 (New International Version)

<sup>30</sup>If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

## Matthew 8:26 (New International Version)

<sup>26</sup>He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

## Matthew 14:31 (New International Version)

<sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

## Luke 12:28 (New International Version)

<sup>28</sup>If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!

**\*\*\*Note, To distrust Christ, and to disturb ourselves when we are in straits and difficulties, is an evidence of the weakness of our faith, which, if it were in exercise as it should be, would ease us of the burthen of care, by casting it on the Lord, who careth for us.**

\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

*Matthew 16:9 (New International Version)*

**<sup>9</sup>Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?**

*Matthew 16:10 (New International Version)*

**<sup>10</sup>Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?**

*Matthew 14:17-21 (New International Version)*

"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

"Bring them here to me," he said. <sup>19</sup>And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. <sup>20</sup>They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup>The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

*Matthew 15:34-38 (New International Version)*

<sup>34</sup>"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked.

"Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish."

<sup>35</sup>He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. <sup>36</sup>Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. <sup>37</sup>They all ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>38</sup>The number of those who ate was four thousand, besides women and children.

"The aggravation of their distrust was the experience they had so lately had of the power and goodness of Christ in providing for them, v. 9, 10. Though they had no bread with them, they had him with them who could provide bread for them. If they had not the cistern, they had the Fountain. Do ye not yet understand, neither remember?"

**\*\*\*Note, Christ's disciples are often to be blamed for the shallowness of their understandings, and the slipperiness of their memories.\*\*\***

**\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE**

"Have ye forgot those repeated instances of merciful and miraculous supplies; five thousand fed with five loaves, and four thousand with seven loaves, and yet they had enough and to spare? Remember how many baskets ye took up." These baskets were intended for memorials, by which to keep the mercy in remembrance, as the pot of manna

which was preserved in the ark, Exodus 16:32. The fragments of those meals would be a feast now; and he that could furnish them with such an overplus then, surely could furnish them with what was necessary now. That meat for their bodies was intended to be meat or their faith (Psalms 74:14), which therefore they should have lived upon, now that they had forgotten to take bread."

**\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE**

### Matthew 16:11 (New International Version)

**<sup>11</sup>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."**

"He reproves their misunderstanding of the caution he gave them (v. 11); How is it that you do not understand?"

**\*\*\*Note, Christ's disciples may well be ashamed of the slowness and dullness of their apprehensions in divine things; especially when they have long enjoyed the means of grace; I spoke it not unto you concerning bread.**

He took it ill, (1.) That they should think him as thoughtful about bread as they were; whereas his meat and drink were to do his Father's will.

(2.) That they should be so little acquainted with his way of preaching, as to take that literally which he spoke by way of parable; and should thus make themselves like the multitude, who, when Christ spoke to them in parables, seeing, saw not, and hearing, heard not, Matthew 13:13."

**\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE**

### Matthew 3:7 (New International Version)

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

### Matthew 16:6 (New International Version)

<sup>6</sup>"Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

### Mark 8:15 (New International Version)

<sup>15</sup>"Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod."

## Luke 12:1 (New International Version)

### Warnings and Encouragements

<sup>1</sup>Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

## Matthew 16:12 (New International Version)

**<sup>12</sup>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.**

**\*\*\*Note, Christ therefore shows us our folly and weakness, that we may stir up ourselves to take things right.**

*He did not tell them expressly what he meant, but repeated what he had said, that they should beware of the leaven; and so obliged them, by comparing this with his other discourses, to arrive at the sense of it in their own thoughts. Thus Christ teaches by the Spirit of wisdom in the heart, opening the understanding to the Spirit of revelation in the word."*

**\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE**

## Matthew 5:20 (New International Version)

<sup>20</sup>For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

## Matthew 17:13 (New International Version)

<sup>3</sup>Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

## Matthew 23:3 (New International Version)

So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

*"Though Christ did not tell them plainly, yet now they were aware that by the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees, he meant their doctrine and way, which were corrupt and vicious, but, as they managed them, very apt to insinuate themselves into the minds of men like leaven, and to eat like a canker. They were leading men, and were had in reputation, which made the danger of infection by their errors the greater. In our age, we may reckon atheism and deism to be the leaven of the Sadducees, and popery to be the leaven of the Pharisees, against both which it concerns all Christians to stand upon their guard."*

**\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE**

# *Heed The Warning!!!!!!*

*Matthew 16:11 (New International Version)*

*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."*



*Are You Willfully Walking Around Blind?*