

Study Guide
The Kingdom Has Come
Matthew 16:1-20

Big Idea: The physical world is not the actual world!

1. Read Matthew 16:1-4. Spiritual Blindness!

Do you think the religious leaders were really trying to see another sign? Why do you think Jesus calls them “evil” and “adulterous”? How can we be that way, when we act “religious”, but are not really open to God’s will? How do you think people are blinded to the things of God as a result?

2. Read Matthew 16:5-12. Learning to Understand the Spiritual!

Share examples of how we are prone to only focus on the physical world and thereby miss what God might be teaching us.

Discuss how “leaven” permeates and puffs us up. How does an overfocus on the physical world (how we look, what people think of us, how we will survive...) make us miss what God may be doing all around us? Share examples.

3. Read Matthew 16:13-20. Why do you think Christ is the entry-point into God’s Kingdom? Why do you think we as the Church have so much authority? How should that play itself out in how we handle situations and minister to others? Discuss.

Message Slides

The Kingdom Has Come!

Awe and Wonder (Ch. 1-2)

Kingdom Words (Ch. 3-7)

Kingdom Works (Ch. 8-10)

Responding to the Kingdom (Ch. 11-13)

Currently - Upside Down Kingdom

Selfishness kills; Selflessness fills

We Walk by Faith not by Sight

Man Looks on the Outward; God Looks at the Heart

Big Idea: The Physical World is not the Actual World!

A. Spiritual Blindness (v.1-4)

And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to **test** him they asked him to show them a **sign** from heaven. ³He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' ⁴And 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. ⁵An 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.

B. Learning to Understand the Spiritual (v.5-12)

1. Unfocus Your Eyes (v.5-11a)

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

2. Listen for the Lessons (v. 11b-12)

"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.

Big Idea: The Physical World is not the Actual World!

C. My Spiritual Starting Point! (v. 13-16)

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

D. My Spiritual Activity! (v. 17-20)

¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “**Blessed** are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and **on this rock** I will build my **church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the **keys of the kingdom** of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Big Idea: The Physical World is not the Actual World!