

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, April 23, 2023**

**Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew**

**Message 86. The Leaven of the Pharisees – Matthew 16:1-12**

**Pastor Phillip M Way**

Intro: Matthew chapters 16-17 are the turning point in this gospel as Jesus withdraws as far north as He possibly can away from Jerusalem. We come to Peter's confession of Who Jesus is, are introduced to the church for the first time, and then after the Transfiguration we see Jesus begin His travel to Jerusalem and the cross.

- I. Testing Jesus – vs. 1-4
  - A. Pharisees and Sadducees
    1. Together?
    2. Pharisee = separated – legalism
      - a. Dedicated to outward good works
      - b. Believed in miracles, the resurrection and judgment, the promise of the Messiah, etc.
      - c. Desired a return for Israel to a Theocracy
    3. Sadducee = the righteous – liberalism
      - a. Held to human reason above divine revelation
      - b. Denied miracles, angels, the resurrection, immortality, and divine predestination
      - c. Claimed to have descended from the high priest, Zadok – Ezek. 44:15-16; 48:11-12
      - d. Political pragmatists
  - B. Demanding a Sign
    1. A miracle He would not or could not perform
    2. He had already done so many – why one more? – Spurgeon Quote #1
    3. A temptation rooted in unbelief and hatred to discredit Jesus
  - C. Jesus Sighs – Mark 8:12
    1. You can predict the weather but are ignorant of the signs of the times
      - a. Weather reports – main concern: will it rain tomorrow?
      - b. Wrath revealed – lacking concern: will I be here tomorrow? – James 4:13-16
    2. A wicked (morals) and adulterous (motive) generation seeks a sign
  - D. The Sign of Jonah – Matt. 12:39; 1 Cor. 15:3-8
    1. Crucified
    2. Buried
    3. Raised the Third Day – Spurgeon Quote #2
- II. Be Careful – vs. 5-12
  - A. Physical Food
    1. Loaves and fish
    2. Leftovers
  - B. Spiritual Food – doctrine (the facts we believe)
    1. Legalism of the Pharisees – self-righteousness – Matt. 23:5-12
      - a. Doing the right things for the wrong reasons
      - b. A religion of good works vs. the gospel of grace – Eph. 2:8-10; Gal. 3:3
      - c. Adding to God's Word with the traditions of men – Matt. 15:8-9
    2. Liberalism of the Sadducees – carnal reasoning – Rom. 8:7
      - a. Self-serving spirituality – “Your Best Life Now”, YOLO – 1 Cor. 15:32-33
      - b. A religion of human reasoning – Prov. 3:5-6
      - c. Taking away from the Word of God

- III. Knowing the Times – vs. 3
  - A. NOT Political, Social, or Economic Events
  - B. A Spiritual Reality – Rom. 13:11-14
    - 1. This present evil age – Gal. 1:4; Eph. 5:15-17; John 15:18-19; 17:15
    - 2. The time for redemption – 2 Cor. 6:2; Gal. 4:4-5
    - 3. Time is short – 1 Cor. 7:29; Rev. 22:20

### **Quotes**

Spurgeon #1 – “Too often we also have fallen into the weakness of asking a new token of divine love, thus undervaluing former favours. If the evidence we have already received of our Lord’s grace and power is not enough, when will our doubts be ended?”

Spurgeon #2 on the Sign of Jonah – “Jesus will be buried, and will rise the third day, and in the power of His resurrection, will win the Gentiles to repentance.”

## **Cross References**

### **Ezekiel 44:15-16**

15 “But the priests, the Levites, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer to Me the fat and the blood,” says the Lord God. 16 “They shall enter My sanctuary, and they shall come near My table to minister to Me, and they shall keep My charge.

### **Ezekiel 48:11-12**

11 It shall be for the priests of the sons of Zadok, who are sanctified, who have kept My charge, who did not go astray when the children of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray. 12 And this district of land that is set apart shall be to them a thing most holy by the border of the Levites.

### **Mark 8:12**

12 But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation.”

### **James 4:13-16**

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

### **Matthew 12:39**

39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

### **1 Corinthians 15:3-8**

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

### **Matthew 23:5-12**

5 But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. 6 They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, 7 greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’ 8 But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. 9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. 11 But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

### **Ephesians 2:8-10**

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

### **Galatians 3:3**

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

### **Matthew 15:8-9**

8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "

### **Romans 8:7**

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

### **1 Corinthians 15:32-33**

32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!" 33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

### **Proverbs 3:5-6**

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

### **Romans 13:11-14**

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

### **Galatians 1:4**

4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

### **Ephesians 5:15-17**

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

### **John 15:18-19**

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

**John 17:15**

15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

**2 Corinthians 6:2**

2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

**Galatians 4:4-5**

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

**1 Corinthians 7:29**

29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none,

**Revelation 22:20**

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!