

MATTHEW 15:29-16:18

- A. Matthew 15:29-39 - And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there. Matt. 15:30 And great multitudes came unto him, having with them *those that were* lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: Matt. 15:31 Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel. Matt. 15:32 Then Jesus called his disciples *unto him*, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way. Matt. 15:33 And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? Matt. 15:34 And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. Matt. 15:35 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. Matt. 15:36 And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake *them*, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. Matt. 15:37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken *meat* that was left seven baskets full. Matt. 15:38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children. Matt. 15:39 And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala.

*This miracle was **similar** to the feeding of the five thousand. The only difference was in the numbers involved. In Matthew 14 it was 5 thousand men, 5 loaves, 2 fishes, and they picked up at the end of the miracle 12 full baskets. Here in Matthew 15 there are 4 thousand men, 7 loaves, 4 fishes, and they picked up **7** baskets full.

- B. Matthew 16:1-4 - The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. Matt. 16:2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, *It will be* fair weather: for the sky is red. Matt. 16:3 And in the morning, *It will be* foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not *discern* the signs of the times? Matt. 16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

1. As they arrive at Magdala (west coast of the Sea of Galilee), Jesus encounters some Pharisees and Sadducees who are seeking a **sign**-miracle from Him. Jesus **rebukes** their spiritual blindness. They knew what the weather would be, yet were blind to the O.T. scriptures telling of the prophetic end times concerning Messiah and Israel. They were apostate, **unbelieving**, religious **representatives** of Israel under Roman rule.

2. As Christ marches toward the **cross**, we will see the religious leaders increasing their opposition against Him. As that happens, Jesus begins to draw away with His disciples to train them and get them ready to tell and defend truth about the Messiah-Kingdom in **His** absence.

Jesus here is not going to the nation, but He is beginning to prepare the disciples to **offer the kingdom to Israel after His D.B.R.A.

3. It is interesting that the Pharisees team up with the Sadducees to try to stop Christ and truth from going on any longer. The Pharisees were the orthodoxy of Judaism (**legalists**); whereas, the Sadducees were the ecumenical **liberals** of that day. They were so opposite in beliefs, but joined together to snuff out the Christ movement.

4. These so-called religious leaders had no spiritual perception of what was going on - with their Messiah right in **front** of them!
 - a. Jesus calls them wicked and adulterous. Remember what He had said in Matthew 15:19 - [For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:] - Them!
 - b. In their case, **no** sign was to be given them except the sign of Jonah (3 days and nights in the whale's belly and Christ-3 days and nights in the heart of the earth). Jesus had nothing else to say to them, so He leaves them (shaking dust off His feet?). A resurrected Messiah was presented when the 12 apostles **offered** the Kingdom in Acts 1-7.

C. Matthew 16:5-12 - And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. Matt. 16:6 Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. Matt. 16:7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, *It is* because we have taken no bread. Matt. 16:8 *Which* when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Matt. 16:9 Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Matt. 16:10 Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Matt. 16:11 How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Matt. 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

1. Jesus warns them about the leaven of the Pharisees, **but they thought** He was talking to or rebuking them for forgetting to take any of the bread with them for their journey. But Christ was rebuking them for their lack of spiritual perception and lack of **faith**.
2. Jesus **recalls** His feeding of the five thousand and four thousand. They should never worry about a lack of food after experiencing those miracles. They were minding only after earthly hunger, but hadn't He **proven** that He could provide for them?
3. Christ is **warning** them again that, after He is gone, they need to be careful of the Pharisees' and Sadducees' corrupt teachings and traditions.
 - a. Their teachings assumed that the Kingdom could happen apart from Jesus Christ. Also remember, they looked for the Kingdom - but had rejected its **King**.
 - b. This also made their teachings "leaven" and in contradiction to **true** doctrine (Christendom?).
 - *|The 12 were being prepared for some **new** truth that Christ was about to reveal to them.
 - *|Christ was protecting them then, but the time was coming that He would **not** be present with
 - *|them. They would have to stand on their own faith.

D. Matthew 16:13 - When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

*Here Jesus turns their thinking/focus upon **Him**. For what He and the 12 were about to go through, it was vital that there was no misunderstanding of Who He truly was. This would help them not to be misled by the corrupt teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees, nor be **in**timidated by them.

E. Matthew 16:14 - And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

1. The common report or opinion among the people was that Jesus was somebody different - someone like John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or another prophet. Notice, there was no **conviction** there because there was **no** faith there. Everyone had their own idea (Christendom).
2. When you leave an issue (Biblically) **open**-ended, **never** come to a conclusion, **never** decide this is right-that is wrong, and this is the truth, then you approach the Word as a liberal skeptic and not with the approach of **faith**.

****All** truth is **not** relative and the Bible is **absolutes**.

F. Matthew 16:15 - He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

*Jesus then draws it to an acid test by asking them who **they** thought He was. This was critical, because the success of their ministry would **depend** upon what the 12 knew and believed about Jesus Christ.

G. Matthew 16:16 - And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

*Peter steps up, speaking for the group, and **spits** it out with no hesitation. Peter had complete confidence and conviction of faith in Who Christ was. **Where** did that courageous faith come from?

H. Matthew 16:17 - And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

1. Peter is told that he had received a supernatural **insight** from God the Father as to Whom Jesus truly was. This is one of the **clearest** statements on the Messiahship of Jesus and His **deity** (Son of the living God).
2. **Paul: Galatians 1:15-17** - [But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace, Gal. 1:16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; **immediately** I conferred not with flesh and blood: Gal. 1:17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; **but I went into Arabia**, and returned again unto Damascus.]

Galatians 2:7-8 - [But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as *the gospel* of the circumcision was unto Peter; Gal. 2:8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, **the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles**:)]

I. Matthew 16:18 - And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

1. This is one of the most **mis**understood verses in the Gospels. Always know the **time**-dispensation in which something is said.

*The Body Mystery Church, revealed first to Paul, is not the Hebrew-Messianic Church mentioned here. So the church here in Matthew 16 has **no** part of today's dispensation!

2. The "rock" in verse 18 is **not** referring to Peter himself. Christ is telling Peter that upon the **truth** of his testimony or confession of Who Jesus Christ truly is ("Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" - **meaning** He is Israel's Messiah - the One that God had promised) - **that truth** is the "rock" their church would be built upon.

**The fulfillment of this will be early Acts, the Tribulation, and into the Millennium (Heb. 2:11-12; Psalm 22:22).

3. John 1:41, 49 - He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. John 1:49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

*These verses show that the words "Christ" and "Messiah" are **equal**. They both mean "annointed one", who is the King of Israel.

4. Since Simon Barjonas' name was changed to Cephas (John 1:42), meaning a stone, the R.C.C. believes the rock in Matthew 16:18 is referring to Peter. This is wrong. Peter is a pebble, but Christ is the rock-**boulder**.
 - a. Let Peter himself tell us Who the true rock is: 1 Peter 2:4-8 - [To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, accept able to God by Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 1 Peter 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 1 Peter 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.]
 - b. Paul tells us Who the rock is in 1 Corinthians 10:4 - [And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.]
 - c. Jesus tells us in Matthew 21:42, 44 - [Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Mat 21:44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.]
- *Peter, Paul, and Jesus tell us that **Christ** Himself is the stone or rock.
- d. Moses tells us in Deuteronomy 32:3-4 - [Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. Deut. 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.]

*This Jewish-Messianic Church is founded upon the Jews recognizing and believing that **Jesus** is the Christ-Messiah, the Son of God.

John 20:31 - But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Acts 2:36 - Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Acts 8:37 - And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

5. [I will build] This will **begin** at Pentecost after the Holy Spirit has come.
6. [My church] This refers to the **Hebrew**-Messianic Church that will ultimately go into the Kingdom with Christ's believing remnant - The **Kingdom** Church.
7. [and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it]
 - a. Hell has **keys** to keep people **in** and not let them out. Christ will conquer death and bring all Kingdom believers (dead or alive) into the Kingdom.
 - *| Remember that, during the Kingdom reign, Satan and his forces will be chained or locked up.
 - *| Hell will not be able to affect the Church. Christ is telling His disciples that He will be raised.
 - *| Hell will not be able to hold **Him** or **them**.
 - **If Peter's confession has value, it has to be because Christ is risen.
 - b. If the gates of hell could have restrained Christ, the Church (of any dispensation) would have been **doomed**. Jesus is assuring them, by using the example of Jonah, that hell and death would **not** retain Him.

Revelation 1:18 - *I am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.