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# LESSONS FROM MATTHEW 16

## 1. Should Christians seek signs? Mathew 16:1-4

- ✚ We can interpret the signs of the times and the season, but we cannot be a date setter on the return of Christ – Matthew 24:36, 1 Chron.12:32, Luke 19:44
- ✚ There was a four-fold witness of Christ – John 5:31-39
- ✚ The Christian has the completed Word of God and the Holy Spirit for guidance. Outward signs can confirm but never lead. Signs and wonders follow Christians, not the other way around. Mark 16:19-20, 2 Thessalonians 2:9, Deuteronomy 13:1-5 (We live by faith, not signs)
- ✚ The three harbor lights: (1) The Word of God (2) The inner witness, or peace (3) Circumstances

## 2. What is the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees? Matthew 16:5-12

- ✚ Pharisees were known for their self-righteousness and legalism (adding rules to the Bible) – Galatians 5:1-6, Luke 18:9-14
- ✚ Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection or the supernatural. Their counterparts today would be churches that quench the Spirit and do not believe the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit are for today - *Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!* 2 Timothy 3:5

## 3. Jesus is the foundation of the church. Matthew 16:13-20

- ✚ Who is Jesus? Is He a liar, lunatic or Lord? How you answer who Jesus is, will determine your eternal destiny - John 14:6
- ✚ The revelation that Jesus is the Christ is the rock on which the church is built – 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, Ephesians 2:20-22
- ✚ Jesus has given authority to the church to bind and loose, forbid and permit – Matthew 18:18-19

## 4. Peter is used of the devil. Matthew 16:21-23

- ✚ Christians can be vulnerable to say the wrong things – James 3:8-12
- ✚ Do we assume that if there is sacrifice and inconvenience involved then it must not be God's will?

## 5. Take up your cross and follow Jesus. Matthew 16:24-27

Dying to yourself means to renounce self-centered ambitions and give the Kingdom of God first place in your life – Matthew 6:33, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

