

Acceptance of the Kingdom: Jesus Fulfills the Sign of Jonah

Matthew 16:1-12 June 20, 2020

Backstory: Process of Discipleship: More and Little Faith

More Faith: Understanding the Parables

"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old." (Matthew 13:51-52)

Little Faith: Send the People Away

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." (Matthew 14:14-15)

More Faith: Walked on the Water

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

Little Faith: Sinking in the Storm

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

More Faith: Worshipping God

And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (Matthew 14:28-33)

Little Faith: Misunderstanding the Parable

But Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us." And he said, "Are you also still without understanding? (Matthew 15:15-16)

More Faith: Heal the woman

But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." (Matthew 15:23-24)

Little Faith: Unable to Feed the Crowds

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way." And the disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in such a desolate place to feed so great a crowd?" (Matthew 15:32-33)

Tale of Two Faiths: Un-Faith and Little Faith

Matthew 16:1-12

THE UN-FAITH

1. THE UN-FAITH TEST JESUS BY ASKING FOR A SIGN (16:1)

And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven.

Miracles of Jesus

Power over Nature: 1) Water into wine; 2) Fish; 3) Calming storm; 4) Feeding 5000, 5) Walking on water; 6) Feeding 4000
Power over Disease: 1) Two blind men; 2) Blind man; 3) Blind since birth; 4) Servant; 5) Paralytic through roof; 6) Invalid by pool; 7) leprosy; 8) official's son; 9) fever; 10) deafness; 11) dropsy; 12) withered hand; 13) blood disorder
Power over Demons: 1) Synagogue; 2) two men in tombs; 3) Mute; 4) Daughter; 5) blind and mute; 6) crippled
Power over Death: 1) Widow's son; 2) Official's daughter

1. And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan. (Matthew 4:23-25)
2. That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases." (Matthew 8:16-17)
3. And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. (Matthew 8:18)
4. Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. (Matthew 11:20)
5. But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons." (Matthew 12:24)
6. And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well. (Matthew 14:34-36)
7. Jesus went on from there and walked beside the Sea of Galilee. And he went up on the mountain and sat down there. And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel. (Matthew 15:29-31)

Testing the Lord: Asking for Signs

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "**Give us water to drink.**"

And Moses said to them, "**Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?**"

But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "**Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?**"

So Moses cried to the LORD, "**What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.**" (Exodus 17:1-4)

"You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. (Deuteronomy 6:16-17)

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "**Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'**" (Matthew 4:5-7)

2. THE UN-FAITH ARE BLINDED TO JESUS (16:2-4a)

He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.'

And 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. An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign,

3. THE UN-FAITH ARE GIVEN A SIGN TO REVEAL THEIR UN-FAITH (16:4b)

but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah."

So he left them and departed.

The Sign of Jonah: The Work of God

1. **GOD SPEAKS:** Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." (Jonah 1:1-2)
2. **GOD APPOINTS A GREAT WIND:** But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. (Jonah 1:4)
3. **GOD CALMS THE STORM:** Therefore they called out to the LORD, "O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. (Jonah 1:14-16)
4. **GOD APPOINTS A GREAT FISH:** And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. (Jonah 1:17)
5. **GOD SPEAKS TO FISH:** And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land. (Jonah 2:10)
6. **GOD SPEAKS:** Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." (Jonah 3:1-2)
7. **GOD RELENTS:** When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. (Jonah 3:10)
8. **GOD APPOINTS A PLANT:** Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. (Jonah 4:6)
9. **GOD APPOINTS A WORM:** But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. (Jonah 4:7)
10. **GOD APPOINTS AN EAST WIND:** When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." (Jonah 4:8)

THE LITTLE-FAITH

1. THE LITTLE-FAITH ARE WARNED ABOUT THE DANGERS OF UN-FAITH (16:5-6)

When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread.

Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

Unleavened Bread: God's Holiness

"This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

1. **Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.**

2. **On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.**
3. On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you.
4. **And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt.** Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.
5. In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, **you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses.**
6. **If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel,** whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land.
7. **You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.”** (Exodus 12:14-20)

Case Study: Clean Out the Old Leaven

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.

1. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.
2. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.
3. Your boasting is not good.
4. **Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?**
5. **Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened.**
6. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.
7. **Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.** (I Corinthians 5:1-8)

2. THE LITTLE-FAITH STRUGGLE WITH THEIR FAITH (16:7-11)

And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, “We brought no bread.”

But Jesus, aware of this, said,

1. “O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread?
2. Do you not yet perceive?
3. Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered?
4. Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered?
5. How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread?

Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Beware: Warnings from Jesus

- **Applause of others:** “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 6:1
- **False Prophets:** “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. Matthew 7:15
- **Persecutors:** Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, Matthew 10:17
- **Religious Hypocrisy:** And in his teaching he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.” (Mark 12:38-40)

3. THE LITTLE-FAITH BECAME ENLIGHTENED IN THEIR FAITH (16:12)

Then they understood that

1. he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread,
2. but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

**Disciples' Misunderstanding
Leaders' Dangerous Doctrine**