

INTRODUCTION

- * "Focusing on the Messiah in the book of Matthew." Matthew was a Jewish man writing to a Jewish audience and giving testimony regarding the life and ministry of the Messiah who had been foretold by many of the Jewish prophets.
- * The core of Jesus' message and ministry was the theme of repentance: that the people needed to change the way they were thinking.
- * This concept is seen in the instructional phase of the Messiah's ministry ... both doctrinally and practically.
- * Last week we considered the hypocrisy of the Pharisees as they accused Jesus of going against their oral law while they themselves taught people to disregard God's divine law.
- * Today, after reinforcing the lesson that He was teaching his disciples regarding the opening of the gospel to the Gentiles, Jesus warns His disciples of falling into the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE FEEDING OF F_____ T_____ (15:29-39)****A. The M_____****B. The M_____****C. The M_____**

- * The gleanings of 7 large baskets (Deut 7:1 ...1-10; Psalms 22:25-28; Isaiah 49:5-7)
- * The gleanings of the 12 baskets (Matt 14:13-21)
- * Romans 1:16; 2:9-10; 3:29-30; 9:24; 10:12; 15:8-9

II. THE WARNING AGAINST F_____ T_____ (16:1-12)**A. In Regards to Craving a Sign (16:1-4)**

1. THE T_____ OF THE MESSIAH
2. THE C_____ OF THE MASSES

B. In Regards to False Doctrine (16:5-12)

1. THE DOCTRINE OF THE PHARISEES
2. THE DOCTRINE OF THE SADDUCEES

False doctrine tends to:

1. _____: Pharisaism: _____ ... Sadducaism: _____
2. Lean toward _____ (over-focus on law) or _____ (removal of law) ... cf. Gal 5:1,13)

INTROSPECTION

- * In what is your faith established? Do you need to continually see "signs" or do you have a confidence in the truth of God's message?
- * What is the foundation of your beliefs? Is it purely the Word of God ... or has human logic doctored your doctrine?
- * Are you willing to commit more time to the reading of God's Word in order to have a greater understanding and grasp of true Biblically doctrine?
- * Is there a need to "change they way you think" ... and, therefore, act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * What are practical ways that we can be assured that we are holding true to a Biblical faith?
- * Read Matthew 24:3-14. In the last days, there will be many apparent signs and many individuals seeking to lead people astray by pointing at signs. But what does Jesus say is the ultimate witness of His coming? How does that affect us?