

Matthew 16 – 1 December 2019

“READ Life with Spiritual Eyes”

Introduction

Jesus has been in Galilee preaching, teaching & having compassion on the people.

We begin to see Him getting attacked at every turn by the religious leaders, Scribes/Pharisees/Sadducees

There's now a clear divide between those who interpret Christ's words as having a natural/physical meaning & those who interpret His words as having a natural/physical meaning **AND a spiritual meaning!**

This chapter is a clear challenge for us to R.E.A.D. life with spiritual eyes.

We'll see a 4-step process for how to “READ life with spiritual eyes.

Vs 1-4 sets up the chapter

Read Vs 1-4

1. Certain Pharisees already came to Him in Matt 12:39 asking for a sign with this same answer.
 - a. Read I Cor 1:22-24
 - b. If we teach nothing else, let it be that Jesus died...and tell them why.
2. Discerning your environment
 - a. They take the time to discern the weather for their own future benefit. (Physical)
 - b. They DON'T take the time to discern their spiritual environment to be prepared for future
3. We're accountable to READ life w/ spiritual eyes.
 - a. Turn to Luke 19:41-44 – “this thy day”
 - b. Read Luke 21:28 – “Look up, your...”

1st Step to R.E.A.D. Life with Spiritual Eyes is to Receive Christ's words spiritually (Vs 5-12)

Read Vs 5-12

1. We need to receive Christ's words into our spiritual life.
2. Look again at vs 6
 - a. Luke 12:1 – Their leaven is hypocrisy.
 - b. Jesus wouldn't be warning them of a physical problem. He warns of spiritual prob.
3. His works were physical compassion & help, His teachings were spiritual compassion & help.
4. The things Jesus teaches need to be interpreted as being spiritually beneficial.
 - a. Read John 6:63
5. Jesus is looking to do so much more than just give you food or money.
 - a. R u praying God helps physical problems?
 - b. R u praying God helps spiritual problems?

2nd Step to R.E.A.D. Life with Spiritual Eyes is to Evaluate Christ's words spiritually (Vs 13-20)

Read Vs 13-15

1. Evaluate Christ words spiritually
 - a. Def. of evaluate - *to judge or determine the significance, worth or quality of something*
 - b. Once you determine Jesus wants you to “receive” His words spiritually not just physically, then you need to judge their worth.
2. He challenges them to *personally* evaluate His spiritual claim.
 - a. As you evangelizing, change the conversation to, Ok but *what do you think* of His claims.

Read Vs 16-17

1. Jesus congratulates Peter b/c he *received* and *evaluated* His words thru the power of the Spirit.
2. Natural man cannot understand things of spirit
3. Choose to evaluate life spiritually not fleshly.

Read Vs 18-20

1. “Upon *this rock* I will build my church”
 - a. What rock?
 - i. Peter = *petros*, a piece of rock like slingstones
 - ii. Rock = *petra*, a mass of rock like Mt Hermon
 - iii. Turn to I Cor 3:9-11
 - b. The rock is Jesus Christ NOT Peter
 - c. Peter wasn’t the 1st Pope
 - i. Wasn’t even leader of the Jerusalem church
 - ii. It was James (See Act 15:13)
2. “Gates of hell won’t prevail against” the church
 - a. I Thes 5:9 – Church not appointed to wrath
 - b. Rev 6:16 – Trib is the wrath of the Lamb
 - c. Dan 7:25 – A-C WILL prevail against them
 - d. Rev 13:7 – A-C seen prevailing against them
 - e. This is one of the evidences that the church isn’t not going thru the Tribulation.

3rd Step to R.E.A.D. Life with Spiritual Eyes is to Agree with Christ's words spiritually (Vs 21-23)

Read Vs 21-23

1. Peter didn't agree w/ Jesus' death on the cross.
2. Just b/c Peter *received* and *evaluated* Christ's words...that wasn't enough.
 - a. Demons (Legion) that Jesus cast out.
 - i. They received & valued His words
 - ii. But didn't agree with what Jesus was doing.
 - b. Judas Iscariot
 - i. He received & valued Jesus words
 - ii. He knew just how much silver he could get for this valuable Man.
 - iii. But Judas didn't agree with the direction that Jesus wanted to take his life.
3. To agree with God means *to live in an arrangement of peace.* (REPEAT THIS)
4. “Savourest” – *to exercise the mind*
 - a. Read Col 3:2

4th Step to R.E.A.D. Life with Spiritual Eyes is to Desire Christ's words spiritually (Vs 24-28)

Read Vs 24-25

1. The giving up of the earthly/physical to gain the eternal/spiritual.
2. Is that your desire?

Read Vs 26-27

1. Do you desire earthly rewards, advances, comfortable life now?
2. Or r u desiring the reward from Jesus' hand?
3. What motivates you?

Read Vs 28

1. It's not just bad stuff coming
 - a. Desiring to know Christ and His plan isn't all death and giving up the earthly flesh.
 - b. Desiring to know Christ and His plan is also about a coming eternal kingdom of goodness!
2. Not taste death? The 3 at Transfiguration

Conclusion –

We've seen a 4-step process for how to R.E.A.D. Life with Spiritual Eyes.

1. **Receive Christ's words spiritually**
 - a. Jesus' works were to physically change things, but His words were to eternally change things.
2. **Evaluate Christ's words spiritually**
 - a. You need to judge the value of Jesus' eternal words.
3. **Agree with Christ's words spiritually**
 - a. Are you living in an arrangement of peace regarding what Christ says about your future?
4. **Desire Christ's words spiritually**
 - a. Are you demonstrating a life that longs for God and conversations about Him?
 - b. Do you desire this for others?
 - c. Let us all pray for other people as Paul did in Col 1:9 (Read Col 1:9)