

# THE WAY OF THE Kingdom

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

On Guard

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**Matthew 16:1-4** | Also found in Mark 8:11-13

<sup>1</sup> The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and *tested* him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. <sup>2</sup> He replied, “When evening comes, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,’ <sup>3</sup> and in the morning, ‘Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. <sup>4</sup> A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.” Jesus then left them and went away.

Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.” He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here. The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, and now something greater than Solomon is here. **Matthew 12:38-42**

**Matthew 16:5-12** | Also found in Mark 8:14-21

<sup>5</sup> When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. <sup>6</sup> “Be careful,” Jesus said to them. “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” <sup>7</sup> They discussed this among themselves and said, “It is because we didn’t bring any bread.” <sup>8</sup> Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, “You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? <sup>9</sup> Do you still not understand? Don’t you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? <sup>10</sup> Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? <sup>11</sup> How is it you don’t understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” <sup>12</sup> Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” **Galatians 5:6-9**

## Key Themes/Notes

- Jesus cares more about learning with depth than learning with ease.
- God’s faithfulness in the past should increase our faith in the present.
- We ARE being shaped by someone/thing: what/who?
- Our preoccupation with the physical world often blinds us to the reality and beauty of the Kingdom of Heaven.