

The Ties that Bind

Matthew 16:1-12

Getting Started

What was one of the fads when you were growing up?

Digging In

1. **Read Matthew 16:1-4.** In your own words, why did the Pharisees and Sadducees come to Jesus?
2. Do you think theirs was a reasonable request? Why or why not?
3. Jesus responds by quoting a weather proverb. What is his point?
4. Jesus accuses the religious leaders of being able to forecast the weather, but of not being able to interpret the *signs of the times*. To what kinds of signs is he referring?
5. What time was it on God's calendar?
6. Why did Jesus call that generation *wicked and adulterous*?
7. What was the sign of Jonah? (Matt 12:38-40)
8. **Read Matthew 16:5-12.** Why did the disciples think Jesus was rebuking them for not bringing any bread?
9. How did the disciples discussion reveal a lack of faith on their part?
10. What did Jesus mean when he warned the disciples about the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees?
11. What was dangerous about the teaching of these religious leaders?
12. How can it be a problem for us today?



Getting Personal

- In your own personal experience, have you been more influenced by the yeast of the Pharisees or the yeast of the Sadducees?
- How can we guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees?
- What are some other kinds of false or imbalanced teaching that threaten the health of the church today?