



Signs, Signs, Everywhere Signs

WK 65 Mt. 16:1-12, 12:38-40

WARM UP: *How many signs did you pass on your way into church tonight? What kind of signs stood out to you the most? How many signs did you pass without even noticing or paying attention to?*

Signs are everywhere. It's not that we can't read them. It's simply that we don't pay attention to them (Signs. *Five Man Electric Band*). When Jesus physically walked the planet, people constantly question him about his identity. **Was he the Messiah?** And, if so, they wanted Jesus to perform some sort of sign that proves he was who he claimed to be.

The only problem with their demand for a sign was that Jesus had already given them more than enough signs to prove his identity but they refused to see them or believe them. Now, the religious leaders are at it again. They're back! This time it is two groups from opposing sides, the Pharisees and Sadducees, but they had one thing in common. They both hated Jesus.

READ ABOUT IT: Matt. 16:1-11

1. *What was it about Jesus that brought these two groups together to test Jesus and demand a sign from him?*
2. *What kind of sign did they want Jesus to perform? More importantly, would it have done any good?*
3. *What do you find ironic about their demand for a sign?*
4. *How does it compare with people's demands today for proof that Jesus is who he said he is and that he is the only way to God?*
5. *How does Jesus respond to their demand? Why does Jesus call them "adulterous" instead of disloyal or unbelieving?*

Read More About It: John 2:12-24.

6. *How does Jesus' response here compare with those he had previously given when people demanded Jesus give them a sign from heaven that he was the Messiah?*
7. *Does it surprise you that both the religious leaders and the people in the crowd both saw the same miracles and signs Jesus performed but came to very different conclusions about the source of Jesus' power? Why?*
8. **Read Matt. 16:5-12.** *What is the "yeast" about which Jesus warns? What was Jesus' point by reminding them of the miraculous feeding of the five and the four thousand?*
9. *How is the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees still at work today? When you are slow to see or to understand, what helps you keep working at it?*