

March 9

Fearing Men, Not God

'Hear now this, foolish people, and without understanding; who have eyes, and don't see; who have ears, and don't hear: Don't you fear me?' – Jeremiah 5:21-22

[Matthew 16:1-12, Galilee] The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing him, asked him to show them a sign from heaven. But he sighed deeply in his spirit, and answered them, "Why does this generation seek a sign? When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' In the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but you can't discern the signs of the times! An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and there will be no sign given to it, except the sign of the prophet Jonah."

He left them, and again entering into the boat, departed. The disciples came to the other side and had forgotten to take bread and they didn't have more than one loaf in the boat with them. Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

They reasoned among themselves, saying, "We brought no bread."

Why do you reason among yourselves, you of little faith

Jesus, perceiving it, said, "Why do you reason among yourselves, you of little faith, 'because you have brought no bread?' Don't you yet perceive, neither understand? Is your heart still hardened? Having eyes, don't you see? Having ears, don't you hear? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you took up? Nor the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you took up? How is it that you don't perceive that I didn't speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

Then they understood that he didn't tell them to beware of the yeast of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. [Mark 8:11-21]

1. What is the "teaching of the Pharisees"? Why were they seeking signs? Do you do that?
2. What's the connection between not seeing/hearing, sign seeking, and not fearing God?
3. God, I question Jesus' authority because I'm guarding my image before men; please...

