

Bible Study 2023-2024

Class #7

1/24/23

Administrative Information

Bible Study will not be presented on Tuesday, October 31 (AM or PM), as I have to go out of town for a few days

Matthew 16 (Cont)

- **Matthew 16:5-10** *“When the disciples reached the other side,...and how many baskets you gathered?”*
 - Suddenly, the disciples are worried about all the leftover bread at two different feedings
 - They began wondering about who was supposed to bring it with them
 - Each disciple must have looked at the others wondering whose responsibility it was to bring the bread
 - In this midst of their confusion, Jesus tells them to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

Matthew 16 (Cont)

- Jesus asked them if they remembered all the baskets with the remaining pieces they had gathered?
- Then, He asked them if they were like the blind Pharisees
- Father discussed some of the misguided modern bible study theories about this passage:
 - There was one original story that the early church cooked up and told over and over
 - There was an occasion when Jesus got a bunch of people to share the food that they had brought with others
 - The question is: Why are there two different multiplication of the loaves stories?
 - Perhaps, the early church started telling the story, and over time two versions arose

Matthew 16 (Cont)

- Father pointed out that these theories make no sense as there are two distinct multiplication of the bread stories (separated by the healing of the Sino-Phoenician woman's daughter)
- It seems obvious that these are two different events; one dealing with Jews, and the other with Gentiles
- Perhaps Matthew couldn't decide which to present, so he threw them both into his gospel
- Father said that we can see that was not the case as we look at **Matthew 16:9-11**

Matthew 16 (Cont)

- As discussed earlier Matthew used the Greek word *spuris* for a Jewish basket and *kophinos* for a Gentile basket (again, as He did with the two stories)
- Also, he discusses 5 loaves for 5000 men and 7 loaves for 4000 men
- This should make it clear that Matthew is talking about two separate stories with two different groups of people

Matthew 16 (Cont)

- **Matthew 16:11-12** *“How is it that you failed to perceive that I did not speak about bread?...but of the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees”*
 - *Caesarea Philippi* is in the furthest northern part of the Jewish tribal allotment
 - Father then reviewed the use of the term ***Son of Man***, from **Daniel 7:13***, which the Jews believed was in some way talking about the coming Messiah
 - They understood that the Messiah would inherit the throne of God
 - In **1st and 2nd Chronicles**, we hear David refer to his throne going to Solomon as the throne of God

Son of Man

- The term “son of man,” could be understood in the following five different ways:
 - A human being
 - The son of Adam (man)
 - A prophet (Elijah, Jeremiah)
 - The messiah
 - The divine figure and messiah from Daniel 7:13-14
- The key to understanding the importance of the term “Son of Man” can be seen in the often used phrase, “He who has ears to hear let him hear,” which allowed everyone to interpret “son of man” from his own point of view (**Mt 13:43 ***)

Matthew 16 (Cont)

- The one who was ruling over the *Kingdom of God* was sitting on the throne of God
- Father said we could certainly read **Daniel 7** that way
- Yet, the idea that the *Son of Man* was one like a human being ascending to the heavenly throne was pretty dramatic stuff
- He pointed out that there was another *Son of Man* referenced in **Ezekiel**, where the prophet sees one like the *Son of Man* standing by the throne of God
- These visions could be understood to mean that the coming Messiah would have some sort of heavenly power beyond that of Solomon (There is something bigger than Solomon here)

Matthew 16 (Cont)

- Thus, Jesus asked the Apostles, “*Who do men say that I am?*”
- Jesus often referred to Himself as the *Son of Man*
- Father asked that we go back to **Matthew 9**, where He says that the *Son of Man* has authority on earth to forgive sins, arise, and walk
- If Jesus meant that the *Son of Man* was someone else, why would He have asked them this question?
- He is obviously using this term as part of His self-identity
- We will see how this term upset the high priest at the end of the gospel
- This is another point of difference between Matthew and Mark deals with Jesus’ question concerning who He is

Matthew 16 (Cont)

- **Matthew 16:13-14** *“Now when Jesus came into the district... And they said, some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets”*
 - There were many reasons some thought that Jesus was **John the Baptist**
 - He probably looked like John, as they were cousins
 - They both talked to the Pharisees in a similar manner
 - Both were clearly starting a new religious movement
 - Many of Jesus’ early disciples were disciples of John
 - Even Herod, who put John to death, thought that Jesus might be John restored to life

Matthew 16 (Cont)

- Others suggested that Jesus was **Elijah**
 - Both were dynamic speakers who had some dramatic dialogue with the religious leaders of their day
 - Both were opposed by national leadership (King Ahaz and Jezebel vs Elijah, Jesus, and the Sanhedrin)
 - Elijah disappeared after crossing the Jordan, and Jesus began His mission at the Jordan
 - Elijah, like Jesus, raised people from the dead, and performed a miraculous feeding
 - The prophet Malachi prophesied that Elijah would return from the dead
 - Jesus actually arose from the dead
- For the most part, the Jews had no idea where Jesus was born, and only discovered Him when He came to the Jordan to be baptized by John

Matthew 16 (Cont)

- Others said that Jesus was the prophet **Jeremiah**
 - In 2nd Maccabees, Judas Maccabeus had a vision of Jeremiah handing him his sword to conquer his enemies
 - Thus, it was understood that Judas went around under the power and protection of Jeremiah doing his great deeds
 - Further, Jesus like Jeremiah started His movement in the mountains

Matthew 16 (Cont)

- **Matthew 16:15** *“He said to them, but who do you say that I am?”*
 - Father said that there is a great deal of good scholarship about this question
 - He, however, suggested that we look at this from Mark’s perspective rather than from Matthew’s