

Matthew 16

Warnings against the Sadducees and the Pharisees

The Sadducees and the Pharisees seek a sign from Jesus

[[Matthew 16:1]] The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and **tempting** desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

How divided they are over doctrine. The Pharisees hold to Biblical doctrines, but they destroy them with their own traditions.

The Sadducee was a liberal, he doesn't use the Bible but rather man's wisdom. He is humanistic.

The doctrine of the Pharisees - a religious heretic
- had a spiritual concept, but not like the Bible says - believed in salvation but not how you get it - you live for this life - typical of Roman Catholics today

The doctrine of the Sadducees - a liberal heretic
A carnal understanding. typical of the world council of churches. Socialistic, materialistic.
An atheist or an agnostic.

They can get together to destroy the Bible-believer. The Sadducees and Pharisees were long-standing enemies, and the fact that they can come together against Jesus shows that they regard Him as an extremely serious threat.

'tempting' -

You can't tempt God because of His nature,

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

God never tempts any man to do evil. He tempted Abraham, but to do what is right.

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Christ is tempted but He's not drawn away. There is no lust for evil things. His nature lusts after good things. Just the opposite of your nature.

Christ never debated over sin. The issue was always solved at the point of elimination. He can be tempted but will not succumb to it.

Sign - They desire another sign from Him. They are pushing Him. He already only talks to them in parables. From 16 on He deals only with His disciples. **they were not convinced by the signs "on earth" Jesus had done.**

Presumably these leaders ask Jesus to predict a sign in the sky-which essentially reduces them to the level of astrologers or diviners, something forbidden in the Hebrew Bible (Deut 18:10).

Deuteronomy 18:10 There shall not be found among you [any one] that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, [or] that useth divination, [or] an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

Asking for a sign after the Lord has already revealed himself is testing him.

Psalms 78:18 And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.

Psalms 78:19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?

Psalms 78:20 Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?

Exodus 7:17 Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I [am] the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that [is] in mine hand upon the waters which [are] in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.

Tradition held that a sign done on earth could be a counterfeit from Satan, but signs done **from heaven** (in or from the sky) were assumed to be from God.

They aren't convinced with His signs so they wanted one from heaven. They are tempting Him to cut them off completely.

[[Matthew 16:2]] He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, [It will be] fair weather: for the sky is red.

Jesus condemned their hypocrisy. **They felt confident about predicting the weather from the signs they saw around them, but were blind to the signs regarding Jesus' Messianic credentials right before their eyes.**

[[Matthew 16:3]] And in the morning, [It will be] foul weather to day: for the sky is red and **lowring**. O [ye] **hypocrites**, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not [discern] the **signs of the times**?

Jesus is giving them a clearer sign than a sign in heaven would be (16:3-4). Jesus' questioners could predict many celestial phenomena with no supernatural inspiration at all; a red sky in the morning, for example, meant that Mediterranean winds from the west would be bringing rain.

'**lowring**' - gloomy

'**hypocrites**' - they don't really want to see a sign. Their motives are wicked.

They think about and work about unimportant things like the weather.

'**signs of the times**' - signs of the first coming There were many signs that they should have discerned but they didn't.

Many signs took place at the first coming. **The signs of the end, to know what time it is on God's clock.**

They should have been expecting these things - (OT info)

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

- They missed the virgin birth (a sign). A great sign.

Also -

Deuteronomy 18:18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

- Here was the prophet. He had the powers, the calling, the signs and the message and they missed it. It was a sign to Israel that the Messiah had come.

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

John the baptist would prepare the way of the Lord.

John's ministry wasn't supernatural, but it prepared the way. It fulfilled this prophecy.

Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Its on the time of His birth and the prophecy. From the OT they knew where, why and how He was born. they were not spiritual. There were many signs of the times; healing, apostles, etc.

Now the signs of the second coming are happening and people are focused primarily on carnal things.

[[Matthew 16:4]] A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, **but the sign of the prophet Jonas.** And he left them, and departed.

'generation' -

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Signs alone convert no one. We can place far too much confidence in signs as events bring people to faith in Jesus.

'Jonas' –

Jesus promised a sign that *would* have power to bring people to faith - His own resurrection. It's the second time that Jesus has used the prophet Jonah as a "sign of the times" (12:40).

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The fulfillment is as Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so shall the son of man spend three days and three nights in the belly of the earth: this clearly refers to Jesus' resurrection.

The resurrection was an end-time event (Dan 12:2); Jesus' resurrection was a clear indication that the kingdom time was at hand (Mt 12:39-40).

Matthew 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

From here in (except for mat 20:29) the only miracles done are few for the apostles and rulers. The reason is –

Matthew 13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Matthew 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

They are totally irresponsible. Jesus worked 100's of signs but they had no spiritual purpose behind their desires.

Jesus cautions the disciples against false teaching

[[Matthew 16:5]] And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

They forget about the power of God and forget that God could supply their need.

[[Matthew 16:6]] Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the **leaven** of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

'leaven' – what they said and teach. Leaven is a picture of sin. *Yeast* was an appropriate metaphor for something that spreads;

Jesus impressed the importance of being on guard against false teaching.

[[Matthew 16:7]] And they **reasoned among themselves**, saying, [It is] because we have taken no bread.

'reason' - its wrong for the natural man to do so. They should reason with the Lord.

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

They are saying they need the bread on a carnal level.

[[Matthew 16:8]] [Which] when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

Spiritual understanding cannot come apart from faith.

[[Matthew 16:9]] Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

There is no problem to supply bread. They have the same problem as the Pharsees and Saducees - now its the disciples thinking that way too.

[[Matthew 16:10]] Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

[[Matthew 16:11]] How is it that ye do not understand that I spake [it] not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

They are taking Him literally, not spiritually. The leaven is a type; the leaven of the Pharasees and that what they teach destroys others and themselves.

Man teaches literal applications spiritually and takes Bible soiritual application and teaches them literally.

The man, the world and the devil are contrary to the book.

If you admit that carnal nature of yours to God and NOT do things your own way, then things can work.

[[Matthew 16:12]] Then understood they how that he bade [them] not beware of the **leaven** of bread, but of the **doctrine** of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

'bade' - spoke, bid

'leaven of bread' - spiritual

'doctrine' - spiritual

They get the understanding through the Holy Spirit. Once they get on the right track God will show them things.

Leaven is said to be false doctrine.

1) heresy here

2) sin in 1 Co 5

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churches. Socialistic, materialistic.
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The liberals teach that leaven is doctrine and if spread throughout the world it will eventually 'Christianize' it. They get that from Matthew 13.

Matthew 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

The Bible defines leaven as false doctrine and sin.

Peter confesses Jesus as Christ

Jesus asks the disciples to tell Him who others say He is?

[[Matthew 16:13]] When Jesus came into the coasts of **Caesarea Philippi**, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

'**Caesarea Philippi**' - north east of the sea of Ghalilee

Jesus has taken his disciples northward from predominantly Jewish territory.

He is going north for the gentiles again - emblematic of His rejection of the Jew. The recently renamed Caesarea Philippi was as pagan a territory as one could find. It was famous for its grotto where people worshiped the Greek god Pan.

'**Son of man**' - the proper designation in relation to Israel

First of all, even if the phrase "Son of Man" is a reference to Jesus' [humanity](#), it is not a denial of His deity. His questioning here will reveal the spiritual nature of Israel. vs. Son of God

He has the power to forgive sins unlike any other man (priest) -

Mark 2:10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)

A pointed question and a pointed answer

[[Matthew 16:14]] And they said, Some [say that thou art] John the Baptist: some, **Elias**; and others, **Jeremias**, or one of the prophets.

elias -

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Some were equating Christ with Elijah.

Jeremias -

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, [and] I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

He was a prophet to the nations - the Gentiles

Jeremiah 25:15 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.

Jeremiah was told to preach to the nations and Christ said that the gospel would go to the Gentiles, so maybe that was the reasoning. His ministry matched that of Jeremiah. Also -

Matthew 12:16 And charged them that they should not make him known:

Matthew 12:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

Matthew 12:18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

They wouldn't think it strange if one of *their* prophets came back.

Jeremiah was the last prophet to the last kingdom of Judah.

[[Matthew 16:15]] He saith unto them, But **whom say ye that I am?**

Who do you say that I am? This is the question placed before all who hear of Jesus; and *it is we, not He, who are judged by our answer.* In fact, *we answer this question every day by what we believe and do; if we really believe Jesus is who He says He is, it will affect the way that we live.*

People Must Recognize Jesus as the Christ (16:14-16)

Those who follow Jesus closely know him as the Christ, God's Son (vv. 15-16).

Herod Antipas thought Jesus was John (14:2); many Jewish people anticipated the return of Elijah and other prophets.

[[Matthew 16:16]] And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Very outspoken. Peter boldly exclaims the truth about Jesus - that He is not only the Messiah (the Christ), but that He is also God as well. The Jews properly thought that to be the Son of the living God, in a unique sense, was to make a claim to deity itself.

[[Matthew 16:17]] And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, **Simon Barjona:** for flesh and blood hath not revealed [**it**] unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Peter did not receive his revelation from *man*, literally "flesh and blood" (Gal 1:16),

Peter's understanding of Jesus' identity came by divine revelation (Mt 16:17; 11:25),

'**Simon Barjona**' - his human name

'**it**' - the fact that He is the Christ

[[Matthew 16:18]] And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and **upon this rock I will build my church;** and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

If you submitted to baptism of John, God would then reveal who the messiah was. Eventually it was revealed to everyone that was baptized in John's ministry. If not under Christ's ministry than under that of the apostles in Acts. In Acts 19 it was revealed through Paul's ministry. God doesn't reveal at right away to everybody.

Simon gets it sooner because he is closer to the Lord. It brings all that a person wants. Carnal man can't ever reveal anything supernatural.

God reveals His secrets to His servants. To be in the ministry you must submit to God.

'rock' - Catholics say Peter is a rock. It is a combination of pagan and Christian teachings. The great leavening principle. Mix something worldly in to get along with the world. **Peter must be in Rome to be the pontiff of Rome, although he never was there.**

Peter, by His own testimony, did not see himself as the rock on which the church was founded.

He says that we are living stones, but Jesus is the cornerstone.

1Peter 2:4 To whom coming, [as unto] a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, [and] precious,

1Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

1Peter 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe [he is] precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

His name means 'rock' but -

The rock that Christ is going to build His church on is the confession that Jesus is the living God. In the gospels a person confesses that Christ is Lord.

Peter is the "rock" because in this context he is the one who confesses Jesus as the Christ.

A false rock -

Deuteronomy 32:30 How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

Deuteronomy 32:31 For their rock [is] not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves [being] judges.

Deuteronomy 32:32 For their vine [is] of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes [are] grapes of gall, their clusters [are] bitter:

Deuteronomy 32:33 Their wine [is] the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps.

Deuteronomy 32:34 [Is] not this laid up in store with me, [and] sealed up among my treasures?

Deuteronomy 32:35 To me [belongeth] vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in [due] time: for the day of their calamity [is] at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

Deuteronomy 32:36 For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that [their] power is gone, and [there is] none shut up, or left.

Deuteronomy 32:37 And he shall say, Where [are] their gods, [their] rock in whom they trusted,

2Samuel 22:32 For who [is] God, save the LORD? and who [is] a rock, save our God?

The foundation is a rock, not a stone. A rock is a more secure foundation.

1Corinthians 10:2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

1Corinthians 10:3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

1Corinthians 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

‘my church’ – The church belongs to Jesus.

[[Matthew 16:19]] And I will give unto thee the **keys** of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt **bind** on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt **loose** on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

The idea is not that Peter will admit people to heaven, but that Peter opened the door of the kingdom to both the Jews (Acts 2:38-39) and the Gentiles (Acts 10:

‘keys’ – something you open a door with, the opportunity to preach a message. **Keys opened locked doors or gates, but the carrying of keys especially symbolized the authority of the person who bore them. One who carried keys to a royal palace was the majordomo, as in Isaiah 22:22 and Revelation 3:7.**

Isaiah 22:22 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

This is Daniel's 69th week (mat 16) and the 70th week is ready to begin. Thats where -

He started out in Acts 2; with Peter building that church with Peter using the key to the kingdom with that Jew and then baptizing in the name of Christ and getting the gift of the Holy Spirit and the gospel of the kingdom being preached.

Because the Jews reject, Peter is given another key to the Gentiles and there is a new gospel to the Gentiles. The church that is built is spiritual, the body of Christ.

The Jews reject so God opens the door of faith to the Gentiles. In Acts 10-15 Peter uses that key and at that time he still doesn't have a full revelation of the gospel of the grace

Revelation 1:18 I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

He took those keys from the devil.

Up to the point of the crucifixion the devil had those keys because the finished atonement had not yet been applied. As long as there was no atonement for sin, the devil had control of those souls down there on the basis of the scripture.

God freed them through the atonement of Jesus Christ. Once that atonement is made the devil loses the power of death of the soul, not the body. The body is still under the power of death because its still under sin. Christ makes the atonement for the soul so they are liberated. The devil has power over the flesh because its still under sin.

A key is to bind or loose. -

The power for binding and loosing is something that the Jewish rabbis of that day used. They bound or loosed an individual in the application of a particular point of the law. binding and loosing - In Jewish texts these terms (*'asar* and *hittir* or *sera'*) could refer to authority to interpret the law, hence to evaluate individuals' fidelity to the law as in 18:18.

Matthew 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- the greater meaning:

Israel is bound by the law when Christ sends the apostles to preach to them. He is trying to loosen them from the law through a new covenant. By their rejection they are still bound from the law. We are loose.

The Lord uses a key to loosen them from this vow. Since they rejected He uses another to key the Gentiles, one of grace which looses you from the law.

Jesus promises that Peter - and the other apostles - would be able to set the boundaries authoritatively for the New Covenant community. This was the authority given to the apostles and prophets to build a foundation (Ephesians 2:20).

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];

The Catholics say the power to bind and loosen is given **only** to Peter. That's true in this text since Peter preached to both the Jew and the Gentile, in Matthew 18:18 -

Matthew 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Here you are trying to get your brother to admit the error so you can loose or forgive him from the penalty of an error. If the brother does admit he was wrong than whatsoever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. God forgives him. If he doesnt repent then whatever you bind (not forgiven) its not forgiven in heaveen.

Jesus Admonishes the Disciples Not to Reveal His Identity

Until after the resurrection the disciples were unprepared to understand the cross; and apart from the cross they could not understand the real nature of Jesus' messianic mission

[[Matthew 16:20]] Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

The original purpose was to reveal that Jesus was the Christ -

John 1:31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

Because of the rejection He now only wants the disciples to reveal this after the resurrection.

Jesus begins to reveal the full extent of His mission

[[Matthew 16:21]] From that time forth began Jesus to **shew** unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the **elders and chief priests and scribes**, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

From this point on its only the disciples that he shows. 'elders and chief priests and scribes' - the names of the rulers of the nation of Israel

Christ is now not concerned with the masses because the rulers of Israel have turned away. At the second coming the chief priests will have to repent before the nation repents.

At the second coming the point when God will be jealous for His land and His people will take place when the priests and the ministers of the Lord? weep between the alter.

Joel 2:18 Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.

Joel 2:19 Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:

In the OT the rulers reflect what the people want. God gives a nation a ruler according to what the people want. When people don't want responsibility and the truth He gives them a ruler who will tell them lies. America doesn't want the truth. There are liars in the pulpit because the Christian doesn't want the truth. These are Bible laws that work in any age.

'be killed, and be raised again the third day' -

The disciples were probably so shocked that Jesus said He would be killed in Jerusalem, that these words didn't sink in.

Later, an angel reminded them of these words.

Luke 24:6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Luke 24:7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Luke 24:8 And they remembered his words,

Peter's unwitting opposition of Jesus

[[Matthew 16:22]] Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

/* Peter was out of order */

'Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You' - Peter's intent was love for Jesus, but he was unwittingly used of Satan. You don't have to be demon possessed to be used of Satan and we need to be on guard lest we are unwittingly used.

Peter says this because it has just been revealed to him that Jesus is the Christ. Just before Jesus is to die. **Peter wasn't in tune with the scriptures.**

Peter is a kingdom builder, not looking forward to the cross any more than we are. We all hope for the rapture.

[[Matthew 16:23]] But he **turned**, and said unto Peter, Get thee **behind** me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou **savourest** not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

'turned' - Jesus turned

'behind' - *Peter has allowed Satan to blind him to the point where He (Christ) looks at him (Peter) and says "get thee behind me Satan" [addressed to the devil in Peter]. /* we will say someone is 'full of the devil' */*
Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

[

The Lord speaks to Satan through men. In Ezekiel 28 He says -

Ezekiel 28:2 Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart [is] lifted up, and thou hast said, I [am] a God, I sit [in] the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou [art] a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

He was actually talking to the one behind the king of Tyrus. He speaks to Satan through men. Satan is also likened to Pharaoh. Ezekiel speaks to Pharaoh, but he is really speaking to Satan. Satan also works through men so God speaks to him through men.]

'savourest' - the Bible, soul-winning, church

Men savour things like new restaurants, newspapers.

Jesus' call to disciples

Jesus has announced that He is going to Jerusalem to die, so He expects His followers to follow in His footsteps by dying to self

[[Matthew 16:24]] Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any [man] will come after me, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross**, and **follow me**.

Jesus' Messiahship meant that he would suffer and die (v. 21); those who wish to follow him must be ready to pay the same price.

3 points here

- 1) **deny self** - self-denial, thats discipline - do away with things - repentance - always a negative step
- 2) **take up his cross** - faith
- 3) **follow Christ** - that's the key - The context is Daniel's 70th week. There is no good dying for the AC.

The gospel message is incomplete without the cross.

Taking up one's cross" in antiquity hardly meant simply putting up with an annoying roommate or having to live with ingrown toenails. It meant marching on the way to one's execution, shamefully carrying the heavy horizontal beam (the *patibulum*) of one's own death-instrument through a jeering mob.

Those who wish to follow Christ should understand from the start that they are surrendering their lives to Christ.

[[Matthew 16:25]] For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

If you come to Christ then you will die with Him (through the eternal blood). But at the same time you get a new life (the new birth).

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

[[Matthew 16:26]] For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

You omly profit by gaining Christ. A soul is worth more than the whole world because it is eternal. The most expensive things last the longest.

Jesus asks us to look beyond immediate gratification, because the immediate loss is worth the ultimate gain, even though the loss is completely repulsive to our flesh.

In -

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

Satan offers Him (the man) the kingdoms of the world. He has never given them to one man. Christ rejected, thinking of the ultimate gain over immediate gratification.

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

You can't profit by gaining how few disciples we have; except for going to church and paying tithes the whole world. No one but Christ will.

This ultimate gain is given on that day when He will reward each according to his works; if we live life blind to this truth, we really will lose our own soul.

In the end God will reward us for what we have done, and eternal life matters more than our temporary lives in this age.

Yet, many Christians today do with their time and money much the same as what morally upright non-Christians do.

[[Matthew 16:27]] For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his **angels**; and then he shall reward every man according to his **works**.

Doctrinally 25-26 talks about the trib right before the second coming. You lose your life doctrinally by taking the mark of the beast. The context is the second coming.

'works' - - the works a man does in the trib

'angels' -

2Thessalonians 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

That's us. He returns with the church, the body of Christ.
(rev 19)

Are we angels?

Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, **but are as the angels of God in heaven.**

We will get a body like Christ. He is the angel of the Lord. Its true that he body of Christ will be like the angels.

A promise to see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom

[[Matthew 16:28]] Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

A reference to the second coming.

What did Jesus mean by this? The answer is in the following chapter ->

Jesus is transfigured - The transformation of Jesus before His disciples.