**Matthew 16**

1. **Beware the Leaven of the Pharisees (verses 1-12)**
   1. The Pharisees and Sadducees seek to discredit Jesus
      1. They ask for a sign
      2. Only the sign of Jonah would be given
   2. Jesus warns His disciples to “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”
      1. The disciples again display a lack of understanding
      2. Their focus was on the “things of men” (the physical) and not the “things of God” (the spiritual).
2. **Jesus asks the question of His disciples, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am.” (verses 13-20)**
   1. John the Baptist (Matthew 14:1-2)
   2. Elijah
   3. Jeremiah
   4. One of the disciples (Matthew 21:11; John 9:17)
   5. Jesus ask His disciples, “But who do you say that I am?”
      1. The Christ, the Son of the Living God
      2. This revelation is from God not man (John 5:31-39)
   6. Upon Peter’s confession, Jesus says that He will build His Church.
      1. It is on His deity that He builds, not on man
      2. 1 Corinthians 3:11
   7. The disciples have the authority (given by Jesus) and the responsibility of teaching others the Gospel.
      1. These disciples would teach on earth what had been Willed in heaven (nothing more).
      2. Peter and the other disciples simply preached the Word, making it possible for unbelievers to hear and believe.
3. **Jesus prepares His disciples for His death. He also lays out the criteria for discipleship (verses 21-28)**
   1. A suffering Savior? The disciples again display a lack of understanding.
   2. Criteria for discipleship
   3. Value of sacrifice vs. self-satisfaction