

MISSING THE SIGNS

MATTHEW 16:1-12

Nothing is so certain as that which is certain after doubts.
Shaking settles and roots.

-Richard Sibbes

I. Permanent Blindness

II. Passing Blindness

Into the Bible:

1. Jesus condemns the Jewish leaders for their continued unbelief in the face of His ongoing fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. But to be fair, we still struggle to clearly understand many of the end times prophecies in both the Old and New Testaments. Why then is He so harsh with the Pharisees and Sadducees?

(Matthew 12:38-42, 13:14-15, 23:29-34)

2. It is easy for us to wonder how the disciples could so completely miss the point of Jesus' teaching regarding the leaven of the Pharisees. Do we always pick up the obvious in Christ's teaching ourselves? Bluntly, but with great patience, Jesus then sets His disciples straight. How does this fit with the purpose of teaching in parables given in Matthew 13:10-16?

Application:

3. In verse 4 Jesus finishes His confrontation with the Jewish leaders and then just leaves. Sometimes, as Christians, we feel like every attack on our faith must be met with a reasoned and fervent defense. When is it OK to let unbelief go unchallenged? (Matthew 7:6 and 10:11-14; Acts 13: 44-46)

For Families:

4. Talk with *your* children about the truths contained in the stories Jesus told.