

Matthew 16:1-12

“Marking Bad Leaven”

I. Overview of the subsection

A Request by the Pharisees and Sadducees v. 1

B Signs to unbelievers vv. 2-4

C Warning against false teaching vv. 5-6

B¹ Signs to believers vv. 7-11

A¹ Rejection of the Pharisees and Sadducees v. 12

II. Request and rejection of the Pharisees & Sadducees vv. 1, 12

The Pharisees' proposition – a sign from God is required
Pharisees and Sadducees together? (*Cf.* 3:7. *See* 12:2, 38; 15:1.)

Jesus' response

Signs refused vv. 2b-3 (*cf.* 9:3)

The sign of Jonah (a future sign!) v. 4 (*cf.* 12:40-41)

III. Differing signs for unbeliever and believer vv. 2-4; 7-11

To the unbeliever, only the sign of Jonah v. 4

The resurrection: ultimate sign from God. Rom 1:4; Acts 2:36

To the believer, the sign of God's presence and care vv. 8b-10

Bread isn't the issue – God's providential care is!

IV. Warning against false teaching vv. 5-6

Avoid false religion of both conservative and liberal stripes.

Jesus cuts the Jewish leaders off – v. 4b (*cf.* 7:6)

Leaven spreads through the loaf (*cf.* Gal 5:9; Mt 13:33; Tit 1:10-11).

Just as the gospel permeates the world, so can the rejection of Christ permeate the Church. Jesus' warning is against this.