

The King's Road: The Revelation of the King

Re: GROUP

The King's Road: A Request Denied and a Warning Given

Matthew 16:1-12

Small Group Discussion Guide

Icebreaker

1. Have you ever been skeptical of something until you saw undeniable proof? What changed your mind?
2. Have you ever misunderstood someone's instructions because you were focused on something else? What happened?

Digging Into the Text

Read Matthew 16:1-12

I. A Hostile Request (16:1-4)

Enemies Unite

1. Why is it surprising that the Pharisees and Sadducees worked together?
2. What united these two groups despite their significant theological differences?
3. What does this teach us about how opposition to Jesus can bring unlikely allies together?

The Motive Behind Their Request

4. Why did the religious leaders ask Jesus for another sign?
5. How was their "test" of Jesus different from the "testing" of faith described in James 1?
6. What are some ways people today may appear to seek God while actually resisting Him?

Interpreting the Signs

7. Jesus said they could interpret the weather but not "the signs of the times." What did He mean in this context?
8. Why is it important to seek Jesus with an honest heart rather than demanding that He prove Himself to us?
9. How can we avoid the extremes of either ignoring biblical prophecy or becoming obsessed with speculation?

II. A Strong Warning (16:5-12)

Missing the Point

10. Why did the disciples misunderstand Jesus' warning about "leaven"?
11. What does this reveal about where their minds were focused?
12. In what ways do everyday concerns distract us from hearing what God is teaching us?

Little Faith

13. Why did Jesus call the disciples "you of little faith"?
14. How did their anxiety about bread reveal the weakness of their faith?
15. Can you think of a time when you forgot God's past faithfulness during a present difficulty?

Remembering God's Provision

16. Why did Jesus remind the disciples of feeding the five thousand and the four thousand?
17. How does remembering God's past provision strengthen our faith today?
18. What practices help you remember God's faithfulness (journaling, prayer, sharing testimonies, Scripture, etc.)?

Beware of False Teaching

19. Why did Jesus compare the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees to leaven?
20. What are some examples of "leaven" or subtle false teaching Christians should guard against today?
21. Why can a small amount of false teaching become spiritually dangerous?

Personal Application

22. Are there areas where you are asking God for more proof when He has already revealed Himself?
23. What "bread" (earthly concerns) tends to consume your thoughts and distract you from God's kingdom?
24. Is there an area where anxiety has caused you to forget God's faithfulness?
25. How can you become more discerning when listening to sermons, podcasts, books, or online teachers?
26. What practical steps can you take this week to guard your heart from false teaching?

Going Deeper

27. Jesus warned His disciples to "watch and beware." Why are both vigilance and avoidance necessary in the Christian life?
28. According to Ephesians 4:11-16, how does spiritual maturity protect believers from false teaching?
29. Why is doctrinal discernment an expression of love for Christ rather than merely winning theological arguments?

Closing Challenge

This week, spend time reflecting on one area where God has been faithful in the past but where you are currently struggling to trust Him. Write it down, thank Him for His past provision, and ask Him for discernment to recognize truth and reject anything that subtly pulls your heart away from Christ.

Prayer Time

Prayer Reflection

Before praying together, ask:

- Where do I need to trust God's proven faithfulness instead of demanding more evidence?
- What distractions are keeping my mind focused on earthly concerns rather than God's kingdom?
- Am I allowing any voices or influences into my life that are pulling me away from biblical truth?