



Matthew

Lesson 16

READ CHAPTER 16 (See also Mark 8:11-38)



Signs and wonders done to show authority or authenticity was not new to the people of Israel. Moses was given power to do great signs and wonders before Pharaoh to testify to the authority God had given him (Ex.4:8-30). This was also to reveal to Israel that Moses was called by God as His voice, and that they were to follow him (Deut.4:34-35; 29:2-4). In Hebrew and Greek the meaning of the word “sign” is similar. In general, it is used to designate acts by which God makes known to men His purpose and His power (Zondervan Encyclopedia).

Jesus also did miracles to testify to His power and authority. The works He did in their lives were to verify that He was from the Father (John 5:36-37).

Paul was given power to do signs and wonders to bear witness that he was called by God (Acts 14:4; 2 Cor. 12:11-12).

Because signs and wonders were done by God’s messengers to identify that they had been sent by Him, it makes sense that Satan would counterfeit God’s miracles. Therefore, Matthew 24:23-24 warns that false Christs will arise and do signs and wonders to mislead people and draw them away from the truth. This requires wisdom on behalf of God’s people to be able to discern the truth from a lie, which lies in identifying the nature and intent of the sign or miracle.

1. *From Matthew 13:54-58, what one thing hindered Jesus from doing miracles? What kinds of signs do you think the Pharisees and Sadducees were expecting from Jesus? Matthew 16:1*

2. *What was Jesus saying to them in vs. 2-3?*

3. *What words does He use that describes their desire for a sign, and what was He saying about them? Vs. 4 See also Matthew 12:39 and Jeremiah 5:7-8.*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
