

(44) Pharisees Increase Attack (Mt. 16:1-4; Mk. 8:10-13)
 (45) Disciples' Carelessness Condemned; Blind Man Healed
 (Mt. 16:5-12; Mk. 8:14-26)

1. Matthew records that this incident is a cooperative work of the Pharisees and Sadducees (Mt. 16:1) but Mark only records the Pharisees' involvement (Mk. 8:11).
2. The region of Magadan (Mt. 15:39) and the district of Dalmanutha (Mk. 8:10) were on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee.
3. The Pharisees' were repeatedly demanding Christ to show His evidence no matter how many times He plainly did so (Mt. 16:1 cf. Jn. 2:18; Mt. 12:38).
 - a. Despite the undeniable evidence the religious leaders still resisted His message (Jn. 3:2; 11:47).
 - b. Signs in themselves are not the end-all for prophetic ministry (Mt. 24:24; Mk. 13:22).
 - c. The real issue was not Jesus' failure to exhibit signs but the Pharisees' failure to believe (Jn. 12:37).
4. The objective for the sign request was to tempt Jesus into disobeying the Father (Mt. 16:1; Mk. 8:11).
 - a. πειράζω peirazō #3985_{38x}; to tempt or snare into a downfall. It is often the great contrast with δοκιμάζω dokimazō #1381_{22x}; to test for approval.
 - b. In this activity they demonstrate their parentage as ὁ πειράζων ho peirazōn, the Tempter (Mt. 4:3; 1st Thess. 3:5).
5. Human wisdom had provided proverbs for weather forecasts (Mt. 16:2-3).
 - a. Such axioms are readily accepted by human wisdom. [Wikiproverbs](#) has a large collection.
 - b. God's principles are often subject to infinite skepticism.
 - c. Tremendous human effort is expended in ascertaining the future. For the farmer wanting to plant crops, for the merchant about to send ships on trade, foreknowledge of tomorrow's circumstances might mean the difference between success and failure.
 - d. God's Word has revealed the future and placed before mankind the expectations of obedience.
6. Jesus repeated His earlier message regarding an evil and adulterous generation (Mt. 16:4 & Mk. 8:12 cf. [GM25: Jesus' Answers to a Demand for a Sign] Mt. 12:39 & Lk. 11:29).
7. In re-re-crossing the Sea of Galilee the disciples forgot/neglected to bring any bread. ἐπιλανθάνομαι epilanthanomai #1950_{8x}; to forget, be inattentive to, neglect, overlook, care nothing about.
 - a. The disciples' preoccupation with temporal matters made them forgetful/negligent concerning spiritual matters.
 - b. Men of little faith (Mt. 16:8).
 - c. Hardened heart (Mk. 8:17).
8. Beware the "leaven" of the Pharisees, which is their teaching (Mt. 16:12) in the context of repeated demands for signs from heaven (Mt. 16:1-4).
9. The blind man outside Bethsaida is unique to Mark (Mk. 8:22-26). The provision of blurred vision followed by clear vision illustrated the stages through which the disciples themselves perceived Jesus' message.

