

Sermon Based Discussion
Matthew 16:5-12
'Influential Voices'
4/21/24

The weekly qualifier:

These questions are not meant to be answered exhaustively. The aim is to foster further discussion on God's Word which is rich, full, and inexhaustible. If you only get through one question, yet the conversation is robust and warming to your soul, well done!

1. Who are the most influential voices in your life? What is it that you admire most about these people? What are some good qualities that have served you well as they speak?
2. The disciples heard the voice of Jesus in verse 6, 'beware of the leaven'. How is it that even good voices are often misunderstood? Why did the disciples and why do we often fail to fully understand God, His Word, and other godly influences?
3. We found out quickly that the leaven wasn't about the leaven. We shared a few examples in the sermon, but can you think of other examples of others or even yourself being mistaken at what you thought God's Word first meant? Share ways that you've humbly grown as a life long learner of God's Word.
4. Easy to miss in our passage, is the character of Christ. Why is it so encouraging to see Him here and know that He presses into His people when they error? What are some practical ways God presses into us when we misunderstand? How can we be more sensitive to God's pressing and leading?
5. Both the Pharisees and the Sadducees had strayed from God and His Word. Seeking to be empathetic to their flaws, what fundamentally was the reason they added or subtracted from God's Word? Why would anyone drift from what God has said?
6. Jesus tells His disciples to watch out and beware of these conservative and liberal religious leaders that had strayed. How important is it that Jesus warned them and us of both extremes? Why are we so quick to beware of the teaching of one group but ignore the other?
7. Seeking to be reflective for a moment, what are some theological and cultural conclusions that we or others may come to that are actually not explicit in the Scriptures? What can we do to grow in being more influenced by God's voice than our culture's?