

Sermon Based Discussion
Matthew 16:1-4
'Signs of the Times'
4/14/24

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. Can you remember what was so shocking about the Pharisees and Sadducees teaming together in verse 1? Why was Jesus a common enemy of them? Can you think of modern examples of rivals coming together to go against God's ways?
2. In skeptical moments, why does the world and even our own hearts want more signs from Jesus? What is it about the human condition that wants more? In a moment of transparency, what is one thing you wish God would give to you as a sign in your life?
3. These folks could interpret the weather, verse 2, but not the present realities of God in their midst. Why is their ability to understand temporary matters like weather an indictment to their lack of understanding spiritual matters? Name a few examples of some having great understanding of the unimportant but missing the most important realities in Christ.
4. How do we know verse 3 isn't Jesus rebuking them for 'the signs of the times', meaning the future of the end of human history? We should certainly have an understanding and an eye about God's revelation of the future, but how do we know this verse isn't talking about that?
5. Can you remember or name some specific 'signs of the times' these religious people have missed in the present? What is the big sign they were missing as it relates to God's Kingdom?
6. How do we feel about Jesus telling us that an evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, seeks for extra, seeks for confirmation? How does this inform how we should receive what we have been given in God's Word? How can God's word give us confirmation when we desire direction, affirmation, wisdom, or knowledge?
7. The sign we've been given in the gospel, Jesus' death and resurrection, how does that sign give us home and security in life?
 - a. What sign do you need to know Jesus will return?
 - b. What sign do you need to know Jesus' is the Lord and Savior?
 - c. What sign do you need as you wonder if God will forgive sin?
 - d. What sign do you need as you question if God knows and cares about your life?

- e. What sign do you need as you hope He will heal our marriages, families, communities and world?