

MATTHEW 16

PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES ASK FOR A SIGN (16:1-12)

Blessed Theophylact on being a “wicked and adulterous generation:”

He calls them ‘a wicked generation’ for tempting Him, and ‘adulterous’ for deserting God and going over to the devil’s side. Although they asked for a sign from heaven, He gives only the sign of Jonah, which is, that for three days He will be in the belly of the great whale of death, and then He will rise.

Blessed Jerome on leaven and false doctrine:

Leaven has this power, that, if mixed with flour, that which seemed small would grow into something larger and draw to its own essence the whole loaf. So too with heretical doctrine, if it tosses even a tiny spark into your heart, in a short time a huge flame grows beneath and draws to itself a person’s entire substance.

ST. PETER’S CONFESSES CHRIST IS GOD (16:13-20)

Blessed Theophylact on Christ’s telling St. Peter, “On this rock I will build My church:”

Since Peter confessed Him as Son of God, the Lord says, ‘This confession which you have made shall be the foundation of those who believe, so that every man who intends to build the house of faith shall lay down this confession as the foundation.’

CHRIST SPEAKS ABOUT HIS PASSION (16:21-28)

St. John Chrysostom on saving your life by losing it:

Because He had said, ‘Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it,’ Jesus makes a strict distinction between salvation and destruction...The distance is infinite between destruction and salvation...Do you see how the wrongful preservation of life amounts to destruction and is worse than all destruction, as being even past remedy from the want of anything more to redeem it?

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Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)

Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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