

**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!**



He Lives

Hymn 299



Because He Lives

Hymn 292



**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!**





Call to Worship

Psalm 119:145-152

Psalm 119:145-152 With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD! I will keep your statutes. I call to you; save me, that I may observe your testimonies. I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words. My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promise. Hear my voice according to your steadfast love; O LORD, according to your justice give me life. They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from your law. But you are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are true. Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever.

To God Be the Glory

Hymn 363



Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Hymn 318





Praise and Prayer Request

All Prayer request can be e-mail to:

plbiblechurch@gmail.com

***We would love to pray for God's will to be done
your life and for His Name to be glorified in and
through you, as you seek His Holy Face!***

Receiving of the Offering



**An offering for the Church can be mailed to:
Promise Land Bible Church
PO Box 1437
Mountain Home, AR 72653**

Famous Quote:

“I do not believe that any man can preach the gospel who does not preach the Law.”

CHARLES SPURGEON



Today's Message

“Test of Faith”

(What do you believe?)

Scripture text: Matthew 16:1-12

Matthew 16:1-4 And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and **to test him** they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' **You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.** An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, **but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.**" So he left them and departed.

The events recorded in Matthew 16 form a dramatic turning point in our Lord's ministry. For the first time, He mentioned the church (Matt. 16:18) and openly spoke about His death on the cross (Matt. 16:21). He began to prepare the disciples for His arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection. But, as we shall see, they were slow to learn their lessons.

The theme of faith runs through the events in this chapter. In these events, we see **four different levels of faith and how they relate to Christ.**

Another test ... **a test of Faith.**

Hebrews 11:1-3 Now **faith** is the assurance of **things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen**. For by it the people of old received their commendation. **By faith** we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Hebrews 11:6 And **without faith it is impossible to please him**, for whoever would **draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him**.

1). No Faith—Tempting Christ (Matt. 16:1–4)

Their desire to silence Jesus had caused the two opposing religious parties to unite in one common effort. They were waiting for Him when He returned to Galilee. The Pharisees, of course, were the traditionalists of their day, while the Sadducees were quite liberal (see Acts 23:6–10).

They united to issue a challenge to Jesus: **“Show us a sign from heaven and we will believe You are the Christ.”**

Act 23:6-9 Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "**Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.**" And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. **For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.** Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?"

The word translated *sign* means much more than simply a miracle or a demonstration of power. It means “***a wonder by which one may recognize a person or confirm who he is.***”

This was the **fourth time the religious leaders had asked for a sign** (Matt. 12:38ff; John 2:12; 6:30). Later, they did it again (Luke 11:14ff). But **miracles do not convince people of sin or give a desire for salvation** (Luke 16:27–31; John 12:10–11; Acts 14:8–20). Miracles will give confirmation where there is faith, but **not where there is willful unbelief.**

Luke 16:27-31 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers--**so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.**' But Abraham said, '**They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.**' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, '**If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.**'"

John 12:6-11 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. Jesus said, "Leave her alone, **so that she may keep it for the day of my burial.** For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." **When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.**

Act 14:8-12 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking. And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

Act 14:15-18 "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." **Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.**

Why did our Lord talk about the weather?

To reveal to His enemies their own dishonesty and stubborn blindness. They could examine the evidence in God's world and draw valid conclusions, but **they would not examine the evidence He had presented.**

His enemies would not believe, and therefore they could not believe (John 12:37ff).

The Pharisees and Sadducees did not lack evidence; they lacked honesty and humility.

John 12:37-42 Though he had done so many signs before them, **they still did not believe in him**, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" **Therefore they could not believe.** For again Isaiah said, "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them." Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, **but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it**, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;

Their demand for a sign revealed the sad condition of their hearts: they were evil and adulterous. He did not accuse them of being guilty of physical adultery, but of spiritual adultery (Isa. 57; James 4:4).

James 4:4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

These men were worshiping a false god of their own manufacture, and this was spiritual adultery. Had they been worshiping the true God, they would have recognized His Son when He came.

Jesus had mentioned the sign of Jonah before (see Matt. 12:38–45).

This was the sign of death, burial, and resurrection. Our Lord's crucifixion, burial, and **resurrection were actually a sign to Israel that He was their Messiah.** It was **this sign that Peter preached about at Pentecost (Acts 2:22ff).**

Matthew 16:4 records the Lord's third departure from Galilee. He departed before to avoid Herod (Matt. 14:13) and to avoid the Pharisees (Matt. 15:21). **It was certainly an act of judgment.**

I'll Fly Away



**Some glad morning when this life is over, I'll Fly
Away;**

To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away,

**I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away; when I die
hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.**

**Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away;
To a land where joys shall never end, I'll fly away.**

**I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away; when I die
hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.**