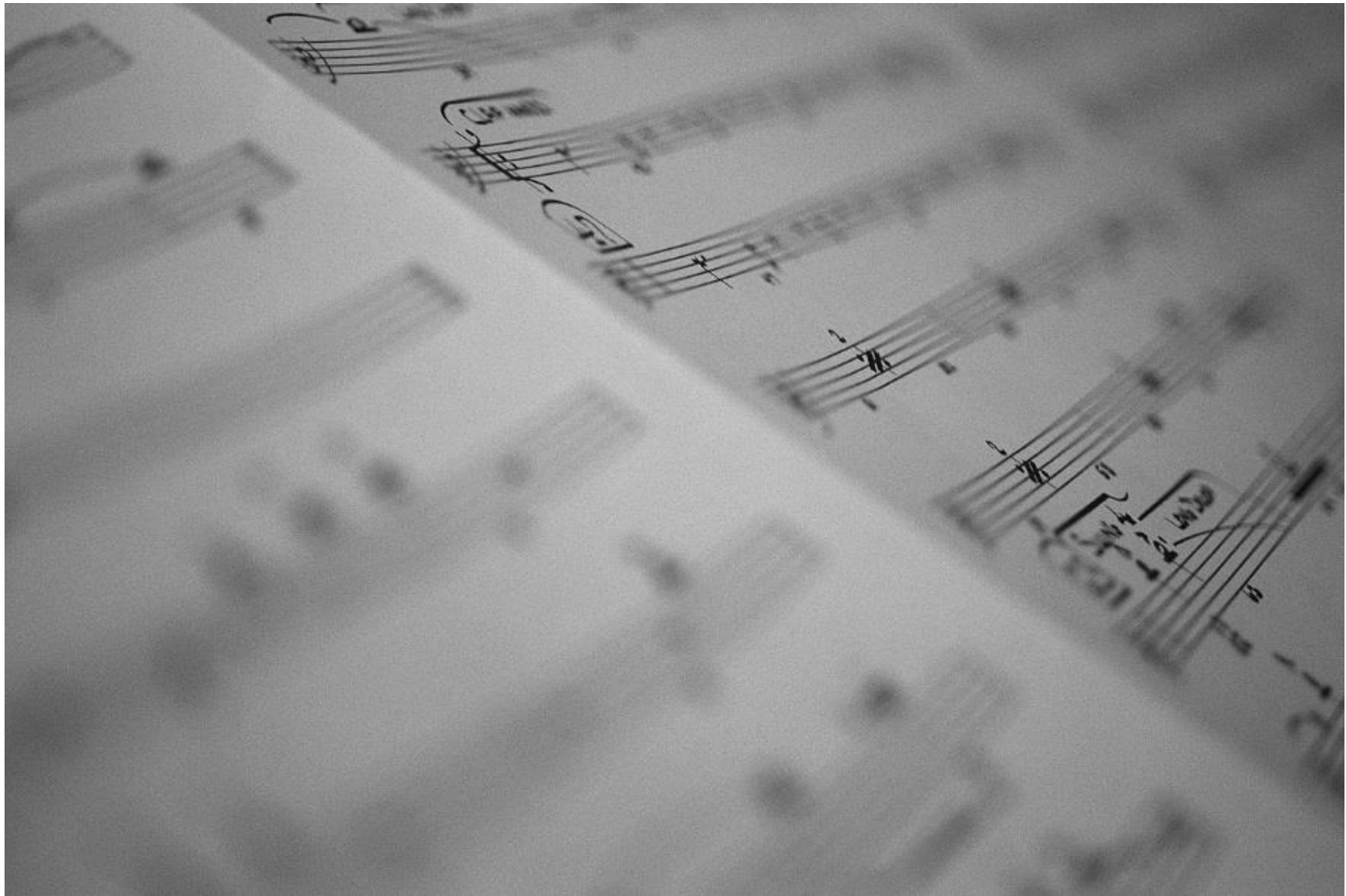


**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!**



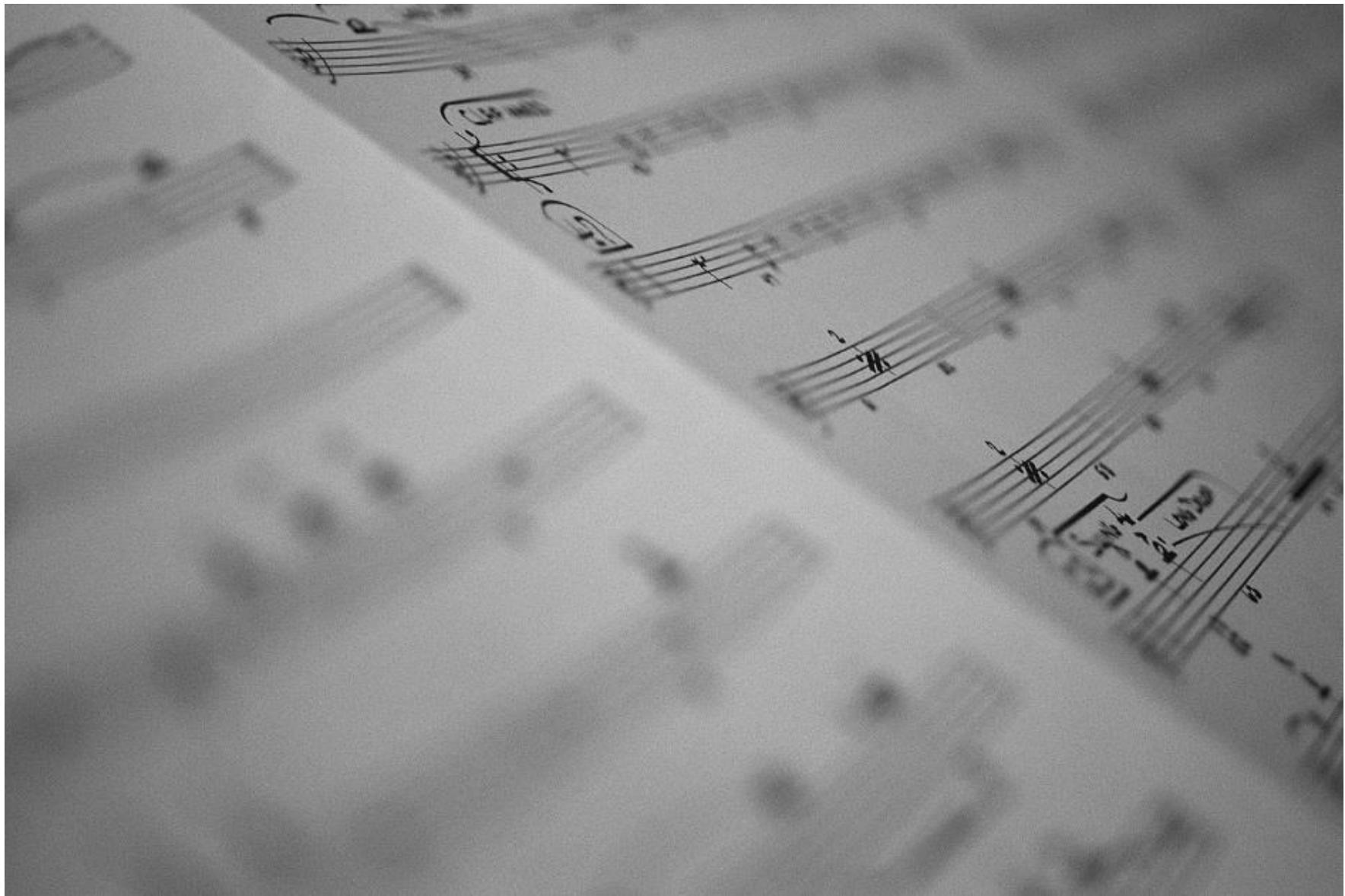
Heaven Came Down

Hymn 657



Send the Light

Hymn 663



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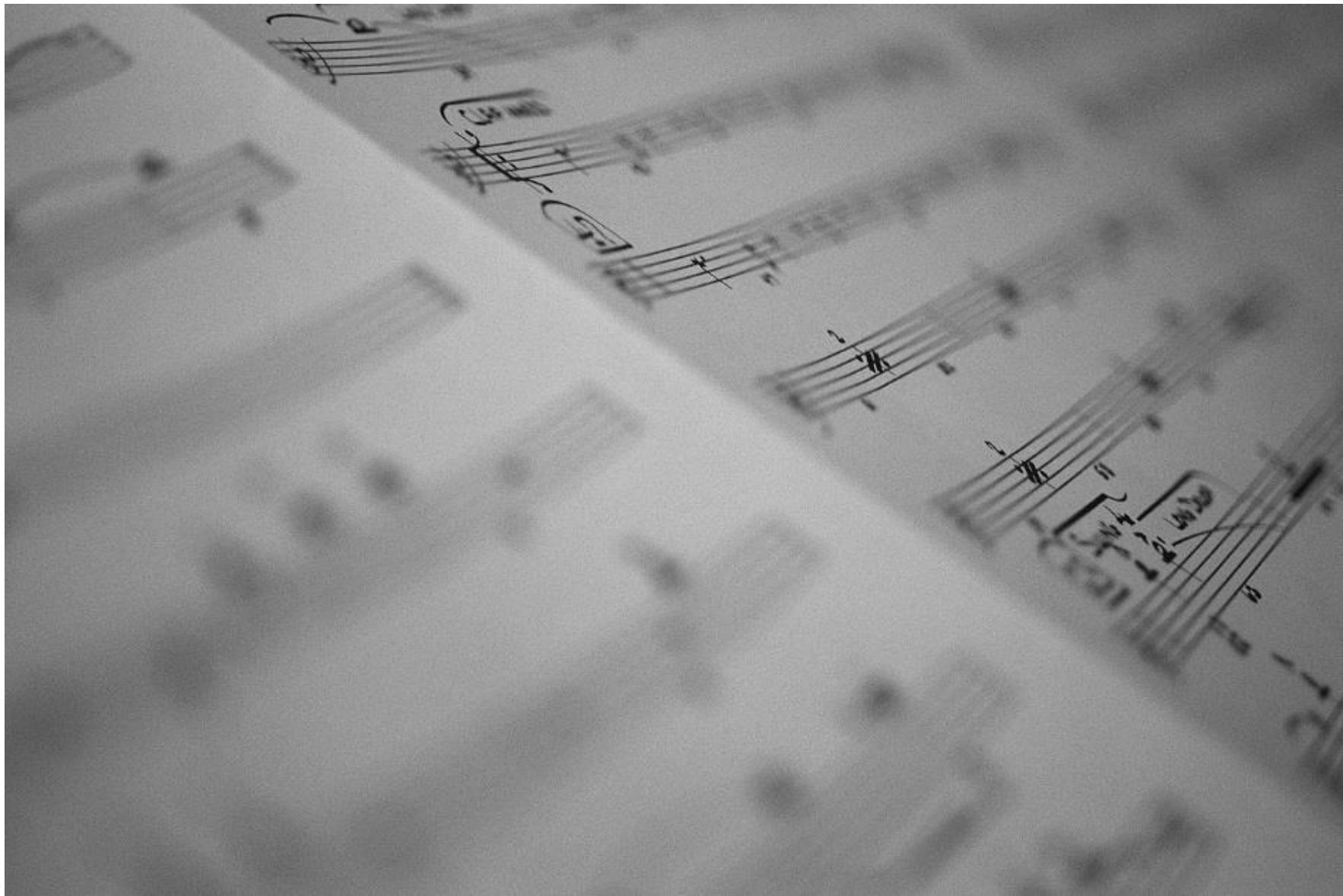
Call to Worship

Psalm 119:161-168

Psalm 119:161-168 Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words. I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil. I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law. Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous rules. Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble. I hope for your salvation, O LORD, and I do your commandments. My soul keeps your testimonies; I love them exceedingly. I keep your precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before you.

Fairest Lord Jesus

Hymn 240





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:

“Surely God would not have created such a being as man, with an ability to grasp the infinite, to exist only for a day. No, no, man was made for immortality.”

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

A photograph of an open Bible against a blue sky with white clouds. The pages of the Bible are visible, showing text from the Psalms and the book of Isaiah. The central text is overlaid with a large, bold, black font.

Today's Message

“Test of Faith, Part 2”

(Little Faith)

Scripture text: Matthew 16:1-12

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.

2). Little Faith—Misunderstanding Christ (Matt. 16:5–12)

The disciples had but one loaf of bread with them (Mark 8:14). We are not told what happened to the many baskets of leftover food that resulted from His feeding the 4,000 just a short time before. Perhaps they gave it away. **Jesus used this embarrassing event as an occasion to teach an important spiritual truth:**

Beware of the false teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

The disciples misunderstood Him; they thought He was talking about material bread. **Often in the ministry of Jesus, people misconstrued His words by interpreting them literally rather than spiritually.**

Nicodemus thought that Jesus was talking about an actual physical birth (John 3:4), and the Samaritan woman thought He was referring to material water from the well (John 4:11). The Jewish crowd in the synagogue thought Jesus was speaking about eating actual flesh and blood (John 6:52ff) when He was describing a spiritual experience (John 6:63).

John 3:4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

John 4:11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?

John 6:51-52 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

John 6:61-65 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "**Do you take offense at this?** Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all.** The words that I have spoken to you are **spirit and life.** But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, "**This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.**"

As noted in a study of Matthew 13, leaven was to the Jews a symbol of evil.

Both the Pharisees and the Sadducees had infected the religious beliefs of Israel with false doctrine. The Pharisees were legalists who taught that only obedience to the Law and the traditions would please God and usher in His kingdom for Israel.

The Sadducees were liberal in their thinking and denied that there would be such a kingdom on earth. They even denied the truth of the resurrection and the existence of angels.

Matthew 13:33 He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

Luke 13:20-21 And again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened."

Matthew 16:11 How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

John 11:45-50 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, **believed in him**, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, "**What are we to do?** For this man performs many signs. **If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.**" But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. Nor do you understand that **it is better for you that one man should die** for the people, not that the whole nation should perish."

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Why would the Lord's mention of leaven cause the disciples to discuss their lack of bread? Possibly they were planning to purchase bread on the other side of the sea, and they thought Jesus was cautioning them not to buy unclean bread which Jews could not eat. If they had remembered how Jesus had multiplied bread on two occasions, they certainly would not have worried.

Their “little faith” kept them from understanding His teaching and depending on His power to meet their needs.

“Little faith” was one of our Lord’s favorite names for His disciples (Matt. 6:30; 8:26; 14:31). Of course, “little faith” is better than *no faith*. *The disciples had many lessons to learn before they would graduate to “great faith.”*

Matthew 6:30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, **will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?**

Matthew 8:26 And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Matthew 14:28-33 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "**Come.**" So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, **he was afraid**, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." **Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"** And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

James 1:4-8 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**

3). Saving Faith—Confessing Christ (Matt. 16:13–20)

Jesus took His disciples to Gentile territory, in the region of Caesarea Philippi. They were about 120 miles from Jerusalem in the northern part of Palestine. The region was strongly identified with various religions: It had been a center for Baal worship; the Greek god Pan had shrines there; and Herod the Great had built a temple there to honor Augustus Caesar. **It was in the midst of this pagan superstition that Peter confessed Jesus as the Son of God.** And it was probably within sight of Caesar's temple that Jesus announced a surprise: He would not yet establish His kingdom, but **He would build His church.**

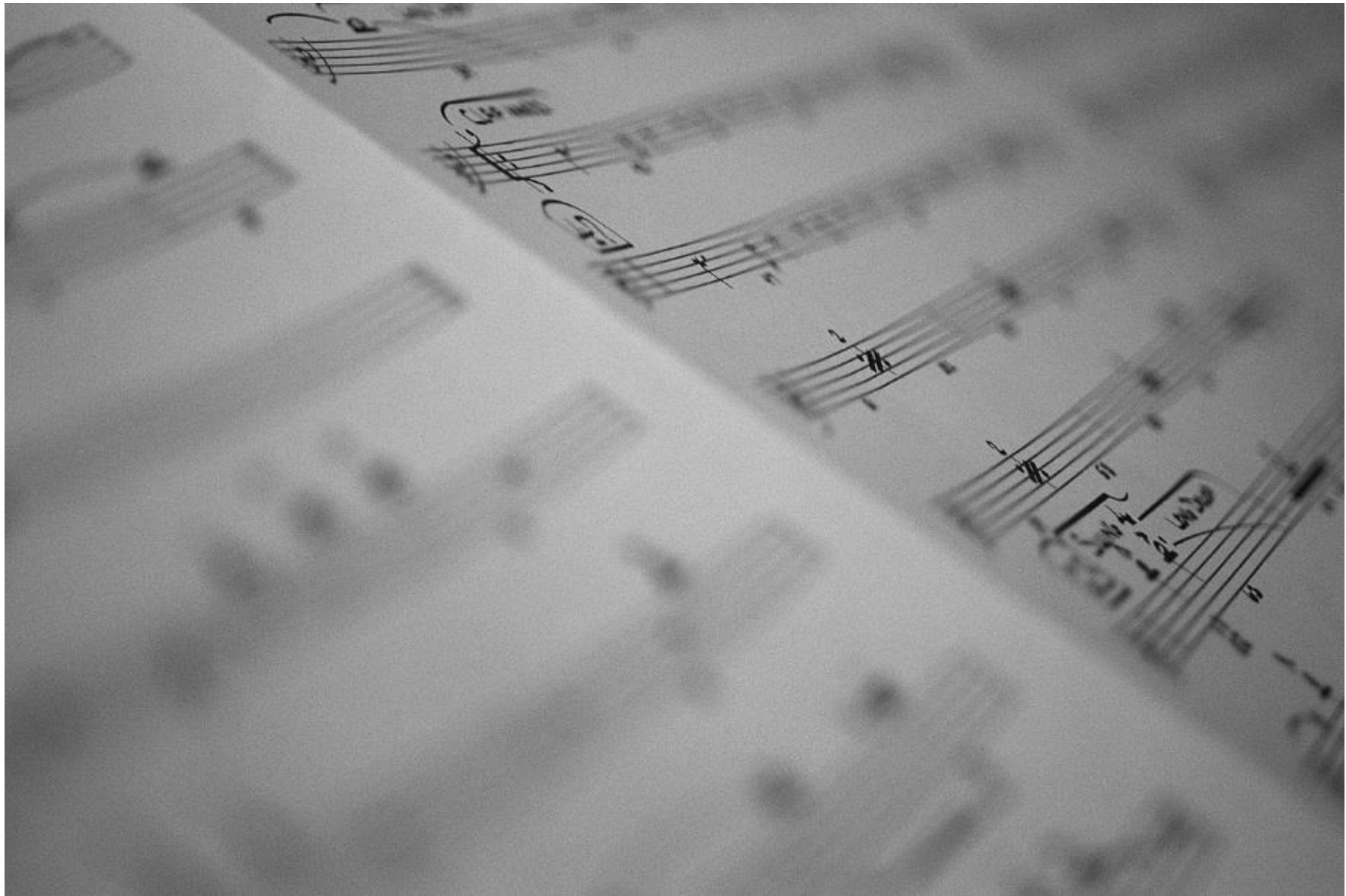
4). Serving Faith—Following Christ (Matt. 16:21–28)

Having declared His person, **Jesus now declared His work; for the two must go together.** He would go to Jerusalem, suffer and die, and be raised from the dead.

This was His first clear statement of His death, though He had hinted at this before (Matt. 12:39–40; 16:4; John 2:19; 3:14; 6:51). “And He was stating the matter plainly” (Mark 8:32).

Near the Cross

Hymn 254



Holy Communion



The Family of God

I'm so glad to be part of the family of God

**I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by
His blood**

Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod

For I'm part of the family, the family of God.