

Going Deeper

3. The Pharisees and Sadducees join forces in this passage (v. 1). Why is this surprising? What motivates them to ask Jesus for a sign (See also Matthew 19:3; 22:18)? Why does Jesus ultimately refuse to grant their request (see vv. 3-4)? What's dangerous about their mindset (see v. 7)?
4. What hinders the disciples from understanding Jesus' warning in verse 7 (see vv. 5-7)? Why is the disciples' preoccupation with a lack of food ironic (see 14:13-20; 15:32-39)?
5. What does Jesus declare about Peter in vv. 18-19? What is Jesus saying about Peter's role in the formation of the church? How might Peter have (mis)understood Jesus' declaration about him (see vv. 21-23)? What doesn't Peter yet realize about Jesus' mission and his own?

Application

6. Jesus' warns the disciples against adopting the cynical mindset of the Pharisees and Sadducees. How does cynicism blind us to Christ, and his work in our lives? Where do you need to repent of a cynical mindset? What would it look like for you to replace this mindset with a more Christ-centered one?
7. How can material needs or desires keep us from seeing Jesus clearly? Jeff talked about how fasting can help us refocus on Christ. What's one comfort/distraction that preoccupies you at the present (e.g. food; coffee; entertainment; technology; etc.)? How might fasting from that thing benefit you spiritually?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?