25 October 2026 **The Ignorance of Israel, the Disciples** Steve Shirley/Brian Benge

and the Religious Leaders Matt 15:29-16:12

Part One: The Ignorance of Israel (v29-31)

Q1. The fact that Jesus had to heal so many people should have told the Jews that something was seriously wrong. What was it? (Deut. 7:12-15) ……..

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Q2. Jesus sat down and waited for the crowds to approach him. In the light of Q1, what is the significance of this? ……..

Q3. After the healings, who did they give glory to and what does this indicate? ……..

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Part Two: The Ignorance of the Disciples Part 1 (v32-39)

Q4. It is quite likely that this feeding took place where there were gentiles also present in the crowd. Given the repeat of the number 7 (v34,37) which in Biblical numerology means completeness, as well as the mention of 'after 3 days' (v32) what could this number 7 indicate to the gentiles? ……

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Part Three: The Ignorance of the Religious Leaders (16:1-4)

Q5. The Pharisees and Sadducees sought a sign 'from heaven', as opposed to an earthly miracle like feeding the crowd. Probably something like the fire from heaven that Elijah called down (1 Kings 18:38). How does Jesus' rebuke about them being able to read signs in the sky relate? ……

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Q6. What were some of the signs of the times (evidence that Jesus was the Messiah) that the religious leaders could not read?

1. Isaiah 7:14 ……..
2. Micah 5:2 ……..
3. Genesis 49:10 ……
4. Malachi 4:5 ……
5. Isaiah 35:5-6 ……

Headscratcher: Jesus accuses the people of being 'A wicked and adulterous generation.' (12:39, 16:4) By adulterous he doesn't mean maritally unfaithful. What does he mean?

Q7. What is the sign of Jonah? (12:39) ……

Part Four: The Ignorance of the Disciples Part 2 (16:5-12)

Having been in an area where gentiles lived it makes sense that the disciples thought Jesus was warning them against buying bread from gentiles because it may be unclean.

Q8. Given that they did have one loaf of bread (Mark 8:14), what point was Jesus making when he reminded them about how much leftover bread was collected? ……

Q9. How is yeast an apt metaphor for sin? (1 Cor 5:6-8) ……

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