

SERMON APPLICATION SHEET FOR:

Rev. Tony Felich

The Danger of Spiritual Immaturity

Matthew 16:1-12

October 18, 2026

Sermon Text	Sermon Notes
Matthew 16:1 And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. [2] He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' [3] 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. [4] 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. [5] When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. [6] Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." [7] And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, "We brought no bread." [8] But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? [9] Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? [10] Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? [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." [12] Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.	<i>We must grow in spiritual maturity so that we can recognize and resist the dangers of false teaching.</i> I. The danger of spiritually blind teachers (vv. 1–4) II. The danger of spiritually immature disciples (vv. 5–12) III. The necessity of growing in spiritual discernment Memory verses for 2026- Ephesians 4:1–3 [1] I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you To walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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Sermon Application Questions	Prayer Requests
1. The Pharisees and Sadducees were highly religious and knowledgeable, yet spiritually blind. What does their example teach us about the difference between religious knowledge and genuine spiritual understanding? How can we guard against similar blindness?	This week our family will lift up requests for:
2. The Pharisees and Sadducees represented very different theological errors—legalism on one hand and doctrinal compromise on the other. Which of these dangers do you think is more prevalent in the church today? How can we guard against both?	This week our family will praise the Lord for:
3. Jesus warned that false teaching is like leaven, capable of influencing the whole loaf. Why can even seemingly small doctrinal errors become spiritually dangerous? Can you think of examples?	
4. Jesus tells His disciples to "watch and beware." How can we cultivate a healthy vigilance against false teaching without becoming overly suspicious, critical, or divisive toward other Christians?	HFG Notes & Actions:
5. In Ephesians 4, Paul connects spiritual maturity with the ministry of the church and the building up of the body of Christ. Why is involvement in a faithful local church essential to developing spiritual discernment? What happens when Christians try to grow apart from the church?	Next HFG meeting is: