

October 18 Answers

- 1) No sooner had Jesus returned to Jewish territory than the Pharisees and Sadducees again asked for a **sign**. Their question revealed their unbelief, for Jesus had performed **many** signs. What made it even worse was that they understood the signs which predicted the **weather**, but they refused to see the signs which confirmed Jesus to be the **Messiah** (cf. Isa 53:4). This teaches us that unbelief is not due to a lack of **evidence**. Rather, it is due to the sinfulness of the human **heart**—people don't **want** to believe. Jesus warned his disciples about the "leaven" (the insidious **teachings**) of the Pharisees, but they thought he was rebuking them for not bringing any **bread**. Their lack of **faith** frustrated Jesus, for they had seen him feed the crowds **twice**, yet they were still worried about running out of food! This teaches us that we need to recognize the connection between what God has **done** and what He will **do**. He has met our needs in the **past**, and we can trust Him to take care of us in the **future**. At Caesarea **Philippi**, Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do **people** say that I am?" After hearing the various opinions, Jesus asked, "Who do **you** say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the **Christ**, the **Son** of the living God" (Matt 16:16). Jesus responded, "You are Peter (**petros**), and on this rock (**petra**) I will build my **church**." Jesus agreed with Peter's confession and declared that his church would be built on that foundation, that is, on **himself** as Messiah and Son of God (the cornerstone) and also on **Peter** and the **apostles** (who bore witness that Jesus was the Christ; see Acts 4:11; Eph 2:20; 1 Pet 2:5–7).