

## WILLFUL BLINDNESS

Matthew 16:1-4

**INTRODUCTION:** Jesus had spent three days in the Gentile region of Decapolis healing and feeding multitudes. He then left that area by boat with His disciples going to the Western side of the Sea of Galilee where He will encounter His old enemies, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Whenever you see the Pharisees and the Sadducees get together it is because they have a common enemy whom they must destroy. The fundamentalist Pharisees would never think of uniting with the free-thinking liberal Sadducees - but they hated Jesus more than they despised each other. Theirs' was an unholy alliance - strange bedfellows indeed. Jesus has previously identified the Pharisees as "blind leaders of the blind." It has been said that there are none so blind as those who will not see. Facts are very stubborn things, and the facts concerning Jesus of Nazareth were in. The facts were irrefutable - Jesus of Nazareth was in fact Israel's Messiah. The only criterion whereby one could discern the true identity of the Messiah was the Word of God; yet Israel's religious leaders refused to see what was so obvious. What criterion do you use to discern if what you see and hear is in fact true or false?

**A. THE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR A SIGN - Matthew 16:1**

**B. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE LORD - Matthew 16:2-4**

**1. HE EXPOSED THEIR SPIRITUAL \_\_\_\_\_ - Matthew 16:2-3**

**2. HE EXPOSED THEIR RELIGIOUS \_\_\_\_\_ - Matthew 16:2-3**

**3. HE DECLARED HIS ULTIMATE \_\_\_\_\_ - Matthew 16:4**

**A. JONAH WAS \_\_\_\_\_**

**B. JONAH WAS \_\_\_\_\_**

**C. JONAH WAS \_\_\_\_\_**

**4. HE REVEALED HIS FINAL \_\_\_\_\_ - Matthew 16:4**