Pharisees and Sadducees

Section 80
Matthew 15:39-16:4
Mark 8:10-12

Matthew 15:39-16:4 (NIV)

39 After Jesus had sent the crowd away, he got into the boat and went to the vicinity of Magadan.

1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.

2 He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' 3 and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. 4 A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away.

Mark 8:10-12 (NIV)

10 he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.
11 The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. 12 He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it."

Two Groups Opposing Jesus

- The Pharisees
  - As we have already noted, Pharisees were the scholarly teachers of the synagogues. Although they shared much in common with Jesus doctrinally, they conflicted with Him hotly over the Sabbath and over their traditional interpretations

Two Groups Opposing Jesus

- The Sadducees
  - Much smaller group
  - Mostly related by marriage or blood
  - Priestly aristocracy
  - All lived in or near Jerusalem
  - Largely controlled temple businesses
  - Theologically only accepted the Pentateuch as inspired
    - Does this make them "liberal" or "conservative"

Signs and Jonah

- Why is it wicked to seek a sign? When is it acceptable to want to see a miracle and when is it "adulterous" and "wicked"?
- As already noted (Section 62) the "sign of Jonah" is an allusion to the resurrection