



For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

16 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 sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.” Jesus then left them and went away. (Matthew 16:1-4)

The above passage is from the gospel according to Matthew. His account is different from that of Mark. Whereas the Markan Jesus says that he will not give the religious leaders a sign, Matthew refers to a sign of Jonah. To set the stage for this reference, Jesus first speaks of predicting the weather.

According to cultural predictions or “ol’ wives tales,” if the sky is red in the evening, then there will be fair, nice weather the next day. On the other hand, if the sky is red in the morning, it was generally believed that it would storm that day. Jesus speaks of the religious leaders abilities to predict the weather based on these “signs” in the skies or the heavens.

Then, he accuses them of having an inability to predict or interpret the “signs of the times” or the actual events happening on earth and right before their eyes. Jesus is likely referencing himself and the things that he is doing that the religious leaders fail to understand or attribute to the movement of God. Jesus concludes that the generation is wicked and unfaithful to God because they say that they want a sign from God, but they fail to see the many signs of God at work all around them.



REFLECTION:

Consider/make a list of the various “signs” of God’s presence all around you.

PRACTICE:

Spend time observing and thanking God for the signs of his presence in your life.