

Little Faith People

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he said, "You have so little faith! Why are you worried about having no food? Won't you ever understand? Don't you remember the five thousand I fed with five loaves, and the baskets of food that were left over? Don't you remember the four thousand I fed with seven loaves, with baskets of food left over? How could you even think I was talking about food? So again I say, 'Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.'" Then at last they understood that he wasn't speaking about yeast or bread but about the false teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

-- Matthew 16:8-12 (NLT)

KEY THOUGHT:

Jesus did get frustrated with his disciples; he just didn't give up on them! That means that he was involved with them and helped them grow.

Indeed, he reached back into their experience and helped them understand their blindness and lack of faith more clearly while driving home his point of concern: be warned about the Pharisees and Sadducees; their teaching is dangerous! In addition, they should have clearly learned by now that they could depend upon him for food.

In dealing with people who don't understand, I find we fail because we don't have the relationship with them to know them and their history enough to help change them -- we tend to lose patience when people don't get it the first or second time -- we get caught up in the argument and the frustration and we forget the main point in the first place.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Holy God, help me be more patient with others who are confused, who do dumb things spiritually, and who ask the same questions again and again. Please help me deal with others in the way you have dealt with me when I've been slow to understand and foolish in my choice of behaviors. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.