

Matthew 16:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

Analysis

They had forgotten to take bread (ἐπελάθοντο ἄρτους λαβεῖν)—the verb *epilanthanomai* means 'to neglect, overlook.' This physical forgetfulness sets up Jesus's rebuke about spiritual forgetfulness. The disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee without provisions, yet immediately after witnessing two miraculous feedings (5,000 and 4,000), they worried about physical bread.

This incident becomes Jesus's teaching moment about the 'leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees' (v. 6)—false teaching that corrupts like yeast. Their material concern blinds them to the spiritual lesson, a pattern Jesus repeatedly confronts in His disciples' thick-headedness.

Historical Context

The Sea of Galilee crossing was a common journey for Jesus and the Twelve (Matthew 8:23-27, 14:22-33). First-century fishing boats typically carried provisions, making this oversight notable. The Pharisees and Sadducees had just demanded a sign (16:1-4), prompting Jesus's warning about their teaching.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'bread' do you forget to bring—what provision has God already demonstrated that you still worry about lacking?
2. How does anxiety about physical needs blind you to spiritual dangers like false teaching?
3. What recent 'miracles' in your life should remind you of God's faithful provision?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	ἐλθόντες	οἱ	μαθηταὶ	αὐτοῦ	εἰς	τὸ	πέραν
And	were come	G3588	disciples	when his	to	G3588	the other side
G2532	G2064		G3101	G846	G1519		G4008
ἐπελάθοντο	ἄρτους		λαβεῖν				
they had forgotten	bread		to take				
G1950	G740		G2983				

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