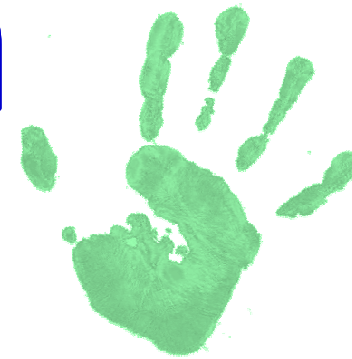


Beware of Leaven

Mark 8:14-21



Introduction

- **Following dispute w/the Pharisees...**
 - **Sail to Bethsaida, Mk. 8:10, 13**
 - **Jesus charged the disciples to be aware of the “leaven” of the Pharisees and of Herod, Mark 8:15**
- **The disciples didn’t understand His warning**
 - **Thought He was speaking of bread, Mk. 8:14-16**
 - **Jesus explained “leaven” meant “doctrine”**
- **Leaven is a good metaphor for “doctrine”**
 - **Both operate subtlety**
 - **Both are very potent**
 - **Both gradually spread their influence**



CATALYST

The Leaven of the Pharisees

■ The Pharisees Then were...



- Both a religious & political group
- Strict observers of the Law, except when, traditions of the elders superseded the law”, **Mk. 7:1-13**,
- Described as “blind leaders” of the blind, **Matt. 15:14**
- Hypocrites, said one thing did another, **Matt. 15:7-8**;
- Did their works to be seen of men, **Matt. 23:5**
- Wore religious, pompous, titles, **Matt. 23:8-10**
- Prevented others from finding Christ, **Matt. 23:14**
- Made people worse, rather than better, **Matt. 23:15**
- Made distinctions where God did not, **Matt. 23:16-22**

The Leaven of the Pharisees

- **The Pharisees Today are those who...**
 - **Teach & practice traditions of men, instead of the commandments of God**
 - **Teach one thing, while practicing another**
 - **Do things to be seen of men, wearing special garments, & using religious titles**
 - **Do not truly show people the way of the gospel**
 - **Use religion to make money & impress others**
 - **Stress some commands, but neglect others**



The Leaven of the Sadducees

■ The Sadducees Then...

- A liberal religious & political group that included powerful members of the priesthood, **Acts 5:17**
- Believed only laws of the Pentateuch were binding
- Rejected “the traditions of the elders”
- Didn’t believe in the resurrection, spirits, angels, **Acts 23:8;**
- Didn’t believe in heaven/hell and didn’t know the scriptures for what they believed, **Matt. 22:23-29**
- Didn’t know the power of God, **Matt. 19:26**

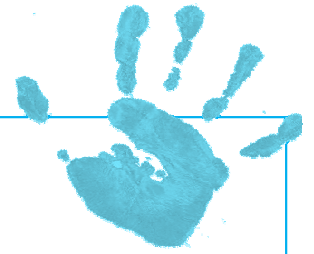


The Leaven of The Sadducees...

- **The Sadducees Today are those who...**
 - **Accept portions of God's word, but reject the rest,**
 - **Example: Words of Jesus, not the apostles**
 - **Contrast: 1 Corinthians 14:37**
 - **Accept the words of the Apostles, but hold that ALL of Jesus' teachings are Old Covenant teachings**
 - **Contrast: Matt. 28:20**
 - **Accept human reason over divine revelation**
 - **Denies Bible authority unless it meets their approval**
 - **Reject doctrines & promises that don't make sense**
 - **Creation, Virgin birth, Miracles, Salvation, etc.**



The Leaven of Herodians



■ The Herodians Then where...

- Jews supporting Herod, mostly a puppet of Rome
- A political party that used religion to support causes
- Interests in worldly causes, rather than spiritual
- Aligned w/Pharisees if convenient, **Mk.3:6, 12:13**
- Views interchangeable w/Sadducees who held similar views, **Mk. 8:15; Matt. 16:6; Mk. 6:18**

■ The Herodians Today...

- Believe solutions lies in politics, not the gospel
- Interested in worldly matters, more than God
- Use religion to support their personal causes





Beware of Leaven

■ Parallels between Leavening Agents

- Pharisees: Religious fundamentalists
- Sadducees: Religious liberals
- Herodians: Political activists



■ Application Today of Jesus' Warning

- *“Take heed, beware of the leaven...”*, Mark 8:15
- *“hold fast that which is good.”*, 1 Thess. 5:21
- *“Hold fast the form of sound words”*, 2 Tim. 1:13
- *“hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering”*, Heb. 10:23
- *“watch and remember”*, Acts 20:31

