

May 23, 2021

**The New Testament!
Matthew 16:5-12
"The Leaven of the Pharisees and
Sadducees"!**

All Scripture ESV English Standard Version unless noted!

Matthew 16:5-12

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

5 When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. **6** Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." **7** And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, "We brought no bread." **8** But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? **9** Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? **10** Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? **11** How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." **12** Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Introduction

The person of Christ and the works of Christ begin to emerge in chapter 16

Today a warning, "**Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees**"

To get us started thinking this morning, what does Jesus mean by this statement?

Exposition of the Scripture

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But now Christ is giving them a caution against the **doctrine** of the Pharisees and Sadducees

He metaphorically used "leaven"

Proverbs 22:13 *The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!"*

1. We are ignorant
2. We have little faith
3. We are forgetful

If we don't pray, read the Word or attend worship consistently all of those will get worse

The danger was not in their bread but in their traditions, principles and doctrine

Colossians 2:8 *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.*

Let me give you some modern day leaven, prosperity gospel, hucksters (people pleasing preachers), the latest philosophy, quantity equality and autonomous warriors

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Why are you worrying about bread?

1. He scowls them for their unbelief, have I not met your needs in the past?
2. He tells them they are ignorant, slow to learn
3. He says they are inclined toward forgetfulness
4. He is displeased with their concerns over the things of the world
5. He is displeased they do not understand
Jesus is concerned about their teaching, doctrine

11b Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Christ teaches by the Spirit of wisdom in the heart
Opening the understanding to the Spirit of revelation
in the Word

The doctrine of the Pharisees...

1. Justification by the works of the law
2. An embracing of traditions and philosophy
instead of the depending on the sufficiency of
Scripture

Close attention must be given in regard to watching
for false teachers

Summary

Jesus charges them with three sins:

1. Ignorance, they did not make the effort to understand Jesus mode of teaching
2. Unbelief, having seen the power and goodness of the Lord and Master they still fretted

3. Forgetfulness, which is often in Scripture made the mother of unbelief and disobedience
Deuteronomy 4:9 Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—

Deuteronomy 4:23 Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the Lord your God has forbidden you.

Deuteronomy 25:19 Therefore when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your enemies around you, in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you shall not forget.

Psalms 78:11 They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them.

There is nothing of difficulty in the terms, only from this history we may learn these things:

1. That God expects that we should not only hear and see, but understand
2. That He expects us to hear now and in the future
3. That He is not pleased when we are blind and ignorant
4. That former experiences of God's power and goodness ought to strengthen our faith in Him

The best that most of us can do in this world, J.R.
Miller, "Silent Times"

"Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27

"Christ lives in me." Galatians 2:20

Christ within us, will be made manifest. If we have this divine indwelling, we will also have an ever-increasing measure in all of our life--of the gentle and loving spirit of the Master. We should not claim to have Christ in us--if, in our conduct and speech, in our disposition and temper, and in our relations with our fellow-men, there is none of the mind and temper of Christ. If Christ truly is in us, He cannot long be hidden in our hearts, without manifestation. There will be a gradual transformation of our outer life, into Christ-likeness.

As He lived--so we will live;
as He ministered to others--so we will minister;
as He was holy--so we will be holy;
as He was patient, thoughtful, unselfish, gentle and kind--so will we be.

Christ came to our world to pour divine kindness on weary, needy, perishing human lives. Christ truly in our hearts--would send us out on the same mission. The world today needs nothing more than true Christ-likeness in those who bear Christ's name and represent Him.

If we truly have Christ in our hearts, it will work out in transformed life and in Christly ministry; it will lead to the brightening of one little spot, at least, on this big earth.

There are a few people whom God calls to do great things for Him. The best that most of us can do in this world--is just to live out a real, simple, consecrated, Christian life in our allotted place. Thus, in our little measure, we shall repeat the life of Christ Himself, showing others some feeble reflection of His sweet and loving face, and doing in our poor way--a few of the beautiful things He would do if He were here Himself.

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Something to ponder:

J.R. Miller: The holiness and the beauty of the divine law were revealed in Jesus. The Beatitudes are only a rewriting of the life of Christ Himself. What He taught about love--was but His own love stated in a course of living lessons for His friends to learn. When He said we should be patient, gentle, thoughtful, forgiving, and kind--He was only saying, "Follow Me!"

The transforming power of the Spirit! J.C. Ryle, "The Lord's Garden

"To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints." Romans 1:7

Believers are separated from the world by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit calls them out from the world, and separates them as effectually as if a wall were built between them and it. He puts in them . . .

new hearts,
new minds,
new tastes,
new desires,
new sorrows,
new joys,
new wishes,
new pleasures,
new longings.

He gives them . . .

new eyes,
new ears,
new affections,
new opinions.

He makes them new creatures. They are born again - and with a new birth they begin a new existence. Mighty indeed is the transforming power of the Spirit!