

“The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees”

Matt. 16:6-12

Introduction:

- A. Jesus warns his disciples about the “leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”
 - 1. Shows He knew the potential power of their influence.
 - 2. Had in mind their doctrine (v. 12) — both its proclamation and application.
- B. The proclamation and application of their doctrine was dangerous in four areas:
 - 1. The content
 - 2. The aim
 - 3. The claims
 - 4. The practice

Discussion:

I. It Was Too Large in its Content.

- A. Contained additions to the Law — “traditions of the elders.” (Mt. 15:1-2, 9).
 - 1. Catholics have a similar system — officially
 - 2. Protestants have similar system — unofficially.
- B. Contained contradictions to the Law (Mt. 15:3-6)
 - 1. “Faith only” contradicts James 2:24.
 - 2. “Baptism does not save” contradicts 1 Pet. 3:21.

II. It Was Too Low in its Aim.

- A. Did works to be seen of men (Mt. 23:5-12).
 - 1. Do you get hurt when men do not give you credit for your works?
 - 2. Do you wonder more about what men think of you than God?
- B. Did works to be praised of men (Mt. 6:1-6).

III. It Was Too High in its Claims.

- A. Their claims of righteousness (Lk 18:9-14).
 - 1. Not wrong to point out another’s sin (Matt. 18:15-18).
 - 2. But must do it humbly considering self (Gal. 6:1).
- B. Their claims of knowledge (cf. John 9:34).

IV. It Was Too Shallow in its Practice.

- A. Mostly talk (Matt. 23:1-5).
- B. Content with partial obedience (Matt 23:23,24; cf. 4:4).
- C. Religion was just “skin deep” (Matt. 23:25-33)

Conclusion:

- A. Let us guard against the traditions of men.
- B. Let us guard against mere men pleasing.
- C. Let us guard against self-righteousness.
- D. Let us guard against surface religion.