“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)

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.