

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Herod

Text: Mark 8:11-21

What exactly is Leaven? While yeast is a clean ingredient that makes dough rise, leaven is produced by keeping back a piece of the previous week's dough, storing it, and adding juices for fermentation. Leaven could be hazardous if it became tainted and would infect all bread made from it.

To forsake the “yeast” of Herod and the Pharisees...

1. _____ the signs of Christ (vs. 11-13)

- A. Refusing to believe on Christ through the miracles and teaching He had already provided, the Pharisees sought to “test” Jesus. They clearly wanted to discredit him before the crowds. This was not a test for their faith, but rather a desire for a mockery of Christ from their unbelief.
- B. Jesus had already provided ample evidence that He was in fact, the Christ, the promised messiah of the Old Testament. Up to this point in Mark we have witnessed Jesus feeding the multitudes, healing the sick, casting out demons, and raising the dead. (Isaiah 61:1-2)

2. _____ the spiritual realities (vs. 14-16)

- A. The Pharisees and Herod shared one thing in common concerning Jesus - Unbelief. Spiritually, they were blind and deaf.
- B. The Disciples were focused only on their physical need for bread, and they were missing the spiritual realities that Jesus was trying to teach them.

3. _____ your own heart (vs. 17-21)

- A. Jesus tells the disciples that they too are spiritually blind and deaf. He says that their hearts are hardened to the truth about Christ that was right in front of them.
- B. Even though Jesus has proven himself to us countless times, our hearts can become hardened towards having faith in Him during difficult times.