

Defilement is from the inside out.

Mark 7:1-23

The hypocrisy of the Jewish Pharisees

Guard your heart

Mark 7:24-30

The humility of the Gentile woman

Humble yourself

Mark 8:11-21

The leaven of the Jewish Pharisees

Resist the culture

Context

Mark 8:1-10 **Jesus feeds 4000**

Mark 8

“11 And the Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to **test** Him. 12 And sighing deeply in His spirit, He said, “Why does this generation seek for a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation. 13 And **leaving them**, He again embarked and went away to the other side.”

“test” can be “tempt” “try” “taunt”

As in Mark 6:11, he
“shakes the dust off his feet”.

Mark 8

“14 And they had forgotten to take bread; and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them. 15 And He was giving orders to them, saying, “Watch out! **Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees** and the leaven of Herod.”

Jesus is saying -

“Watch yourself lest you respond
just like the Pharisees.”

which is exactly what they are about to do!

Mark 8

“16 And they began to discuss with one another the fact that they had no bread. 17 And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart? 18 *Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear?* And do you not remember, 19 when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?” They said to Him, “Twelve.” 20 “And when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?” And they said to Him, “Seven.” 21 And He was saying to them, “Do you not yet understand?””

What were they to understand?

Matthew 6

“³¹ **Do not be anxious** then, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we clothe ourselves?’ ³² For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

1. Disciples are not to be anxious about material needs but seek first God’s Kingdom.

What were they to understand?

John 10

“²⁴ The Jews therefore gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, **these bear witness of Me**. ²⁶ But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;”

2. The issue is the identity of Jesus as Messiah.

Jesus' credentials

- ✓ His coming was pre announced.
- ✓ He came for the purpose of dying.
- ✓ He was raised from the dead.

- ✓ Unlike the prophets, he drew attention to himself and received worship from people.

It was all about HIM!

Colossians 1

"¹⁵ And **He** is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. ¹⁶ For by **Him** all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created by **Him** and for **Him**. ¹⁷ And **He** is before all things, and in **Him** all things hold together. ¹⁸ **He** is also head of the body, the church; and **He** is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that **He Himself** might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in **Him**, ²⁰ and through **Him** to reconcile all things to **Himself**, having made peace through the blood of **His** cross; through **Him**, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven."

What is the leaven of the Pharisees?

Matthew 16

"¹¹ How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. ¹² Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the **teaching** of he Pharisees and Sadducees."

Luke 12:1

"He began saying to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy**."

What is the leaven of the Pharisees?

Matthew 6

"²² The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore **the light that is in you is darkness**, how great is the darkness!"

1. Leaven is a small inconspicuous detail that defiles the whole life.
2. The way we see things shapes our lives.

Defiling Leaven

- **It's all about ME.**



**"God" is my
personal
concierge in
this world.**

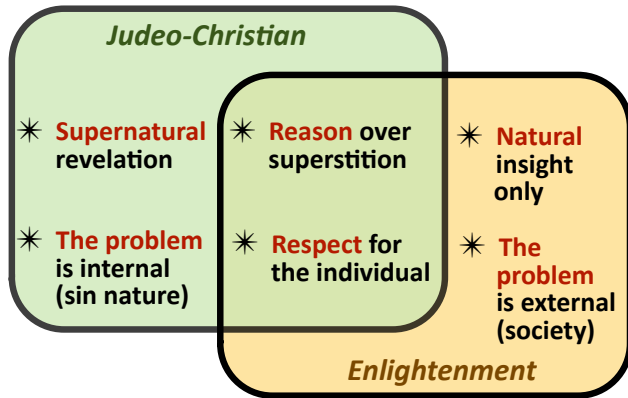
Defiling Leaven

- It's all about ME.
- **It's all about false hope.**



**My problems and
their solution
is the outer
environment
not my heart.**

Culture Wars



The American Constitution Tension between competing values

The state is to protect religious freedom.



The state is to promote the general welfare.

- ✓ Polygamy in LDS communities.
- ✓ Medical care for children of Christian science families.
- ✓ Honor killing in some Muslim communities.

Secular Humanism

is
defining reality
and making decisions
as though God is not there
or does not matter.

Secular leaven

Absolute autonomy	No one can tell me what to do
Radical relativity	We each have our own rules
Comprehensive contingency	Everything has a natural cause
Total temporality	No life after death
Metaphysical materialism	Science explains everything

The politics of Jesus

Jesus' ethical teachings had powerful social implications.

But they were never applied through a political ideology by Jesus or his disciples.

Defiling Leaven

- It's all about ME.
- It's all about false HOPE.
- **It's all about DO not DONE.**

Legalistic leaven

Confusing the ministry
of Holy Spirit and Christ

Mixing the Old Covenant with the New

Preaching grace with the fine print
sounding like law

Putting the emphasis on what we must
do rather than on what Christ has done

**Example
of Jesus being IN but not OF
the world.**

**Jesus' followers resist the
leaven that shifts attention
from Christ to Self and from
the Kingdom to this world.**

So what are we to do?

- **“Beware”**
- **Identify the leaven.**
- **Renew your baptismal covenant.**
 - ✓ **Keep self & Christ in place**
 - ✓ **Hope in Christ**
 - ✓ **Celebrate the Cross**