

The Messiah Warns Against the Yeast or Leaven of Religionists: A Warning Against Spiritual Blindness and False Teaching Mathew 16: 01–12

(Mk. 8:10-21)

1. ***Beware of religionists who seek to discredit Christ***

- a. They plotted:
Asked Jesus to prove His claims
- b. Jesus warned: Beware, v.6

2. ***Beware of being blind to the signs***

- a. The natural vs. the spiritual senses
 - 1) Natural senses:
Sharp, discerning
 - 2) Spiritual senses:
Dead, undiscerning
- b. The signs of the times
should be discerned
- c. The reason for spiritual blindness
and for seeking more signs:
Are wicked and adulterous
- d. The only sign to be given
to a wicked generation:
Jonah, 12:38-41

3. ***Beware of false teaching***

- a. The chance to teach
a much needed lesson
- b. The lesson:
Beware of the leaven,
the yeast of religionists
 - 1) The lesson misunderstood:
Their thoughts were on
earthly bread and cares
 - 2) Jesus rebuked them:
Their minds were on earthly things,
not on learning to trust God

- 1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus
and tested him
by asking him
to show them a sign from heaven.
- 2 He replied,
“When evening comes,
you say, ‘It will be fair weather,
for the sky is red,’
- 3 And in the morning,
‘Today it will be stormy,
for the sky is red and overcast.’
You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky,
but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.
- 4 A wicked and adulterous generation
looks for a miraculous sign,
but none will be given it
except the sign of Jonah.”
Jesus then left them and went away.
- 5 When they went across the lake,
the disciples forgot to take bread.
- 6 “Be careful,” Jesus said to them.
“Be on your guard
against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”
- 7 They discussed this among themselves and said,
“It is because we didn’t bring any bread.”
- 8 Aware of their discussion,
Jesus asked, “You of little faith,
why are you talking among yourselves
about having no bread?

c. The two great lessons of life 1) To trust Christ for earthly bread and care 2) To be concerned with being misled by the leaven (teaching) of religionists d. The great spiritual lesson grasped: Believers are to beware of the teaching of the religionists, the Pharisees and Sadducees	9 Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? 10 Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? 11 How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 12 Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
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