



BEWARE THE LEAVEN

MATTHEW 16:5-12

MATTHEW 16:5-8

When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. Jesus said to them, “Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, “We brought no bread.” But Jesus, aware of this, said, “O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread?”

MATTHEW 16:9-12

Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

WHAT IS LEAVEN?

a substance, typically yeast, that is used in dough to make it rise



PHARISEES

Religious Sect

hypocritical, proud,
smug and self-
righteous

‘Separated’ with
emphasis on oral
tradition, personal piety,
following the Law



SADDUCEES

Political Party

rude, arrogant, power-
hungry, quick to dispute
opponents

held seats in Sanhedrin,
agreed with Rome



WHAT WERE THE PHARISEES TEACHING?

01. God controls all things, but decisions made by individuals also affect life's course.
02. There will be a resurrection of the dead.
03. There is an afterlife, with appropriate reward and punishment on an individual basis.
04. The spiritual realm, including the existence of angels and demons, is real.



WHAT WERE THE SADDUCEES TEACHING?

01. Extreme self-sufficiency to the point of denying God's involvement in everyday life.
02. Denied the resurrection of the dead.
03. Denied an afterlife, holding that the soul perished at death denying any reward or punishment in the afterlife.
04. Denied the existence of a spiritual realm.

MARK 8:16-18

And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?”

12 LOAVES FOR 9,000 PEOPLE

19 BASKETS FULL OF BROKEN PIECES



O YOU OF LITTLE FAITH

MATTHEW 16:8

The disciples
misunderstand Jesus'
metaphor about leaven

MATTHEW 6:30

God cares about
his people

MATTHEW 8:23-27

Jesus calms the
storm on the sea

LUKE 12:28

God provides for
life's necessities



O YOU OF LITTLE FAITH

- Have you ever felt like God would not protect you in a particular situation?
- Have you ever wondered if God was going to provide for you?
- Have you ever failed to understand or receive God's truth because of a hardened heart?
- Have you remembered the times God took care of you?

GROWING OUR FAITH AND CREATING A DEFENSE AGAINST FALSE TEACHING

- BEGINS WITH HAVING FAITH
 - Hebrews 11:1-3
- FAITH GROWS WITH INSTRUCTION
 - Romans 10:17



GROWING OUR FAITH AND CREATING A DEFENSE AGAINST FALSE TEACHING

- FAITH INCLUDES TESTING
 - James 1:2-4
- FAITH RECOGNIZES FALSE TEACHING AND SIN
 - Matthew 23
 - Mark 7:6-13
 - 1 Corinthians 5:1-8





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SENIOR RECOGNITION

