

OUR LORD'S DOUBLE WARNING

Matthew 16:5-12 (continued from last Sunday)

INTRODUCTION: As we started looking at our Lord's double warning to His disciples, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees", we also recognized that this warning has come marching down through the corridors of the past twenty centuries of church history right into our generation, a generation that, for the most part, has ignored the seriousness of the warning. One doctrinally astute believer commented to me as he left, "Here in North America we are up to our necks in leaven - it takes everything we have to just keep our heads above water and not drown in the cesspool of false teaching." Others have felt the same way for many years now. Back in the sixties A.W. Tozer said, "The revival of popular Christianity would be the worse thing that could happen to the North American Church." He went on to say that it would most likely put us in a moral landslide that would take decades to recover from. I wonder what he would say if he were alive today? The moral landslide that he feared has just about buried us. Any revival that is owned by God will have moral implications - behavioral implications - and doctrinal implications. As we examine the leaven (doctrine) of the Pharisees and the Sadducees we need to recognize the absolute authority of the Word of God, and we need to stop divorcing doctrine from practice - belief from behavior.

I. THE OVERALL PICTURE - Matthew 16:5-12

Leaven = not used for good but for something that is contrary to God's Word.

There are five kinds of leaven found in the New Testament:

1. The leaven of the Pharisees = religious and traditional legalism
2. The leaven of the Sadducees = religious rationalism
3. The leaven of Herod = the exploitation of others for own benefit
4. The leaven of the Corinthians = carnality
5. The leaven of the Galatians = sanctification by works of the law

Instead of the Bible being the absolute basis of authority there is a false basis of authority that produces the false doctrine.

All of us are prone to substitute the absolute authority of God's Word for one or more of these false systems. Jesus knew this and therefor the double warning.

Thomas had a weakness toward the leaven of the Sadducees - rationalism.

Peter's weakness tended toward the leaven of the Pharisees - legalism.

II. THE _____ WARNING - Matthew 16:6, 11-12

A. THE LEAVEN OF THE _____

1. _____ OVER _____

2. _____ OVER _____

3. _____ OVER _____

B. THE LEAVEN OF THE _____

1. _____ WITHOUT _____

2. _____ WITHOUT _____

3. _____ WITHOUT _____