

Mark 8:13-21 **Beware of the Leaven of the Pharisees**

13 And He left them, and getting into the boat again, departed to the other side.

14 Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat.

15 Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." 16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have no bread."

17 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened? 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 fragments did you take up?" They said to Him, "Twelve." 20 "And when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?" And they said, "Seven." 21 So He said to them, "How is it you do not understand?" NKJV

52 For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened. [Mark 6:52] NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees and the leaven of Herod." [Matthew 16:6, Mark 8:15, Luke 12:1]
 - ✧ Revealing human nature, it is apparent that like people today, when Jesus mentioned the word leaven, the disciples failed to grasp the significance of His words even though He had already made mention of the light of the world and salt of the earth in referring to Christian influence on the world at large. [Matthew 5:13-16, Mark 4:21-23]
 - ✧ Jesus had also used the illustration of the woman using leavening as He described the Kingdom of Heaven, and its growth and influence in the earth. [Matthew 13:33]
 - ✧ The focus of the disciples was too much on the issue of food at hand, rather than to apply the words to a spiritual teaching and greatly needed warning.
 - ✧ Jesus had already addressed the dangerous error of the traditions and doctrine of the Pharisees. [Matthew 5:20, 12:1-8, 24-30, 15:1-20, Mark 7:1-23, Isaiah 29:13]
 - ✧ When the disciples brought up the idea that they had not taken food when they started out on the trip, Jesus reminded them of the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 and the 4,000, to tell them that food was not a problem with God, and that God had already supplied in great abundance in the recent past, to which they themselves were eye witnesses. [Matthew 16:9-10, Mark 8:18-20]
- ✚ Jesus then asked: "How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?--but to **beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and Sadducees, and Herod.**" [Matthew 16:11, Mark 8:21]
 - ✧ They did not understand, because their hearts were hardened. [Mark 6:52]
 - ✧ They finally understood, He was warning against the **doctrinal influence of the Pharisees and Sadducees**, whose doctrine was as far out of line with the heart of God as were the counselors of Job. [Job 42:7-8, Matthew 16:12]