

ENCOUNTER



— SCHOOL OF MINISTRY —

The Three Leavens

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Class 6 - Session 1

Q1. Identity and Transformation

12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, **so that we may understand the things freely given us by God.** **13** And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms. *(cont.)*

14 Now the natural person does not accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him it is foolishness, and he cannot understand it, because it is judged **spiritually**. 15 The spiritual person, however, can judge everything but is not subject to judgment by anyone. *(cont.)*

16 For “who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to counsel him?” **But we have the mind of Christ.** -1 Corinthians 2:12-16

45 “Then he made his disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side toward Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. 46 And when he had taken leave of them, he went off to the mountain to pray. 47 When it was evening, the boat was far out on the sea and he was alone on shore.
(cont.)

47 Then he saw that they were tossed about while rowing, for the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them.

49 But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out. *(cont.)*

50 They had all seen him and were terrified. But at once he spoke with them, “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!” 51 He got into the boat with them and the wind died down. **They were utterly astounded.** 52 **They had not understood the incident of the loaves. On the contrary, their hearts were hardened.** -Mark 6:45-52

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

14 Now they had forgotten to bring bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. 15 And he cautioned them, saying, “Take heed, **beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.**” *(cont.)*

16 And they discussed it with one another, saying, "We have no bread." 17 And being aware of it, Jesus said to them, "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? 18 Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? *(cont.)*

19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve." 20 "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven." 21 And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

-Mark 8:13-21

Leaven = influence

Leaven: a **mindset** or a way of thinking affects how we understand and interact with God and the world around us.

Leaven of Herod: political mindset in which man is at the center

Four Attributes:

1. Practical atheism
2. Deception
3. Mockery
4. Manipulation

Leaven of the Pharisees: God is said to be at the center of everything, far from the heart.

Five Attributes:

1. Unbelief in Power of God
2. Externals Over Relationship
3. Condemnatory and Judgmental
4. Performance
5. Resistance to Change

1. Unbelief in Power of God

24 “Jesus said to them, “Is not this why you are wrong, that you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?”

-Mark 12:24

1. Unbelief in Power of God

1 “But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of stress. ³² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, fierce, haters of good, *(cont.)*

1. Unbelief in Power of God

4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 **holding the form of religion but denying the power of it. Avoid such people.** -2 Timothy 3:1-5

2. Externals Over Relationship

27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”

-Matthew 23:27

2. Externals Over Relationship

6 And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; 7 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’ 8 You leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men.” -*Mk 7:6-8*

3. Condemnatory and Judgmental

1. Prideful attitude whereby they judge and condemn others of their faults/sins in order to show their righteousness (*John 9*)
2. Using woman caught in adultery to test Jesus (*John 8*)
3. Condemning Jesus for healing on the sabbath (*Mark 3*)

4. Performance

Value and identity are tied up in how well they perform for God.

(Self-Righteous)

1. **Hypocrite:** Greek (*hypokritēs*) means actor or performer
2. *Luke 12:1* - “Beware of the leaven—that is, the hypocrisy—of the Pharisees.”

5. Resistance to Conversion of the Heart

1. *Matthew 26: 29-31* - “Pharisees are the “children of those who murdered the prophets.””
2. God uses prophets to call people to conversion and covenant faithfulness
3. *Isaiah 43:1* - “Behold I am doing a new thing, do you not perceive it?”

Leaven of the Kingdom

33 "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

- *Matthew 13:33*

¹³ “And he left them, and getting into the boat again he departed to the other side. ¹⁴ Now they had forgotten to bring bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵ And he cautioned them, saying, “Take heed, **beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.**” ¹⁶ And they discussed it with one another, saying, “We have no bread.”

17 “And being aware of it, Jesus said to them, “Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? 18 Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? *(cont.)*

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The ability to have faith in God in the present is contingent upon remembering God's deeds in the past.

9 “The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned back on the day of battle; 10 they did not keep God’s covenant and refused to live by his law. 11 **They forgot what he had done**, the wonders he had shown them. 12 He did miracles in the sight of their ancestors in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan. *(cont.)*

13 He divided the sea and led them through; he made the water stand up like a wall. 14 He guided them with the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night. 15 He split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them water as abundant as the seas; 16 he brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers.” - *Ps. 78:9-16*

1 “After the entire nation had completed the crossing of the Jordan, 2 the Lord said to Joshua: Choose twelve men from the people, one from each tribe, 3 and command them, “Take up twelve stones from this spot in the Jordan riverbed where the priests have been standing. Carry them over with you, and place them where you are to stay tonight.” *(cont.)*

4 Summoning the twelve men he had selected from among the Israelites, one from each tribe. 5 “Joshua said to them: “Go to the Jordan riverbed in front of the ark of the LORD, your God; lift to your shoulders one stone apiece, so that they will equal in number the tribes of the Israelites. *(cont.)*

6 In the future, these are to be a sign among you. When your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean to you?'

7 you shall answer them, 'The waters of the Jordan ceased to flow before the ark of the covenant of the Lord when it crossed the Jordan.' Thus these stones are to serve as a **perpetual memorial** to the Israelites." - *Joshua 4:1-7*

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- *Mark 8:19-21*

You know your mind is being renewed
when you begin to lose the fear of
man.

If you know who you are in God and think how God thinks, then not only will you spread the leaven of the Kingdom in the world you'll also be fearless in demonstrating that kingdom wherever you go.

Activation:

Overcoming the Leaven of the Pharisees - Testing the leaven of the Pharisees and allowing the Lord to overcome it. (See supplemental handout)