

BEWARE OF THE LEAVEN THAT CORRUPTS By Terri Hill

Jesus warned His disciples to be aware of the “leaven” of different groups. In general terms, the word “leaven” in Scripture speaks of an “influence”, which permeates or contaminates. Sometimes it refers to a corrupting influence: infectious sin or false doctrine. JESUS IS PURGING THE LEAVEN FROM HIS HOUSE! See Exodus 12:15, 19; Galatians 5:9.

1. The Leaven Of Herod – Matthew 2:7-18; 14:1-12; Mark 6:18-22; 8:14-15; Luke 13:31.

Refers to a “ruler” who:

- a. Kills his competition, murders “babes” (a new birth or move of the spirit; that which is innocent and vulnerable).
- b. Fears the people, so he imprisons the prophetic “forerunner ministry” and “cuts it off”.
- c. Is a deceiver and a friend of “Pilate”(one who pretends to be innocent); Matthew 2:3-9; Luke 23:12.
- d. Was given over to seduction and adultery.

2. The Leaven Of The Pharisees – Mark 8:15; Matt. 16:5-12; 23:1-3; Luke 11:37-44; 12:1
Prideful, self-serving, legalistic keepers of the law and oral traditions:

- a. Are suspicious of others who are different than they are; attempts to catch Jesus (His Body) in sin or error and seeks to accuse them.
- b. They love the “uppermost seats”; they impose many observances and obligations upon the people, placing an external, formal emphasis upon the law.
- c. Does not recognize their time of visitation (the present move of God), and is not teachable in the deep things of God due to spiritual blindness.
- d. Were administrators over public affairs, had great influence over the multitudes.

3. The Leaven Of The Saducees – Matthew 16:6-12; Mark 12:18; 2 Timothy 3:5.

Humanistic thinkers who denied the existence of the afterlife and the spirit world:

- a. Does not believe in (or practice) the supernatural manifestations of spiritual ministry.
- b. This secular, ruling hierarchy accepted only the written law.
- c. Practices lifeless religion; does not believe in (denies the power of) the Resurrection.
- d. The man-centered, worldly culture appealed to this sect, who had the rich on their side.

4. The Leaven At The Church Of Corinth – 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:1-9; 5:1-13; 11:27-34; 2 Corinthians 12:20-21.

These carnal believers had been influenced by a culture of intellectuals and comfort:

- a. There was a problem with sensuality, self indulgence and fornication; they fellowshiped with believers who were openly living in sin.
- b. They could only receive the “milk” of the Word because they were carnal, and were ignorant concerning the operation of spiritual gifts (were susceptible to counterfeit gifts).
- c. They participated in the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner; didn’t rightly discern the Lord’s Body.
- d. There was strife: divisions and factions among the brethren, and preferential treatment given to certain ones.

