

The Leaven of the Pharisees and the Leaven of Herod

Selected Scriptures

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Central Point: Lying is a matter of nature and not a matter of party affiliation. If you believe the Christian response to the lies of the left is to flee to the partisan right for truth, you will be simply exchanging one set of lies for another. And, if you do, you are in grave danger of becoming delusional and blinded to the truth that is in Christ. The leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod must therefore be discerned and repented of at once, followed by a return to your first love in Christlike living.

Lying is a core issue:

- **John 8:43-45**: A matter of fallen nature not partisan politics
- **Romans 3:4**: A universal condition
- **II Thessalonians 2:1-12**: The common condition in these last days: lawlessness; lying; deception—and the people take *pleasure* in this unrighteousness!
- **Jeremiah 5:30-31**: A common state within ancient Israel.
- **Jeremiah 6:14-15**: Superficial religion is the breeding ground; the inability to feel shame is the result.
- **Isaiah 5:20**: Crazy making, gas-lighting the common tact.
- **II Peter 2:7**: Lying is a vexation to the righteous soul.

The leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod:

- Jesus commands his disciples to take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees (worldly religion) and of Herod (political entanglements).
- Leaven (Yeast) is serious business under the old covenant, “Under pain of being cut off from Israel” – D. A. Carson, *Biblical Theology Study Bible*, p. 1787. “In some Jewish traditions, the removal of leaven symbolized the future purification of God’s redeemed people” (ibid). This purification occurred when Jesus was offered as our Passover lamb, so that believers are now unleavened (I Corinthians 5:6-8). So we must not become leavened again.

- 5 signs you've become leavened (from references in the BTSB).
 - 1) Mark 8:31-33: Rejection of a suffering Messiah. Cross-less Christianity. Triumphalism. Shaming those who suffer as outside the will of God or lacking faith.
 - 2) Mark 9:33-37: Seeking to be great over others; rejecting childlike faith and contentment in favor of self-ambition.
 - 3) Mark 9:38-41: Sectarian arrogance. Believing the truth resides only with you and your particular group.
 - 4) Mark 10:35-40: Seeking special status and position with Jesus so as to exclude and reign over others (prominent among clergyman).
 - 5) Mark 10:41-45: Being envious or angry with those who appear to have that special position with Jesus. Rejecting servanthood in favor of status.

Clearly these are five signs or indicators that you are not seeking to follow Jesus, but to use your profession of faith in him to aggrandize and advance yourself. This is typical for both the leaven of the Pharisees (Matthew 23:6-36; and the leaven of Herod (Acts 12:20-24). So then, what to do if any or all of these five indicators fit you.

- 1) Repent. Be done with this mindset. Return to your "first love" (Revelation 2:1-7).
- 2) Separate from religious and/or political entanglements that foster this thinking.
- 3) Walk as Jesus walked (I John 2:6), and as modeled by the apostles (I Corinthians 11:1; I Peter 5:1-4; II John v.12).
- 4) Help others who are caught in this leaven to see their folly and to also repent and separate, and then walk as Christ walked.

Please take these things very seriously. We live in perilous time, and we must be devoted to the purity and simplicity that is in Christ to escape. **AMEN.**

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