

**MATTHEW:  
THE GOSPEL  
OF THE KINGDOM**

**Beware of the Leaven**  
Matthew 16:1-12

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**THE LEADERS' REQUEST (1)**

And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and *to test* him they asked him to show them *a sign* from heaven.

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**JESUS' RESPONSE (2-4)**

He answered them, [[“When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’]]

You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret *the signs of the times*.

An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it *except* the sign of Jonah.”

So he *left them* and *departed*.

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**A CIRCUMSTANTIAL DETAIL (5)**

When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring ~~any~~ bread.

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**JESUS' WARNING (6)**

Jesus said to them, "*Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.*"

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**THE DISCIPLES' MISUNDERSTANDING (7)**

And they began *discussing* it among themselves, saying, "We brought no bread."

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**JESUS' REBUKE (8-11)**

But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of *little faith*, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? *Do you not yet perceive?*"

Do you not *remember* the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered?

How is it that you *fail to understand* that I did not speak about bread?

Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

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**THE DISCIPLES' UNDERSTANDING (12)**

*Then they understood* that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the *teaching* of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

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### Application/Participation

- We should beware of the leaven of unbelief
  - Even though small, it is insidious
- Distinguishing between unbelief and doubt
  - Unbelieving unbelief - contrarian
  - Unbelieving belief - non-action
  - Doubt says “I don’t understand”, “I have questions”, “I am uncertain”, “I am weak”, or “I am afraid”
  - Wanting the church/community to be a safe place for doubt, and inspiring place for unbelief

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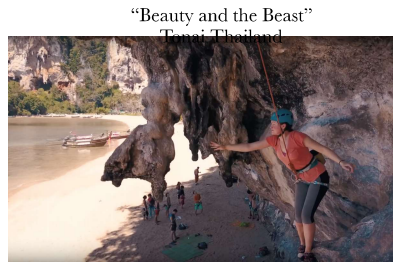
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### Application/Participation

- Battling unbelief  
(Heb3:12-13/10:24)
  - The necessity of community
  - The richness of “exhort”
  - The multi-faceted approach of the author



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