

“Watch Out for the Leaven”

June 14, 2026 Mark 8:11-21 Pastor Todd McAllister

Introduction: “The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.” *Proverbs 22:3*

What is _____ in order that a person can watch out?

- Ability to see
- Ability to hear
- Ability to comprehend

Context: Pharisees arguing with Jesus and seeking a sign
(*Mark 8:11-12; Matthew 12:38-39*)

Signs done in presence of the Pharisees:

- (Capernaum)
- Heals a man with unclean spirit—Synagogue *1:21*
- Heals Simon’s mother-in-law *1:31*
- Heals many; casts out many demons *1:34*
- (Throughout Galilee)
- Cleanses a leper *1:42*
- (Capernaum)
- Heals a paralytic *2:12*
- Heals a man with a withered hand *3:5*
- Heals a woman with blood flow *5:34*
- Raises Jairus’s daughter from the dead *5:42*
- Apostles cast out many demons and healed many *6:13*

When you have the _____ you don’t need signs!
Hebrews 1:1-2

Do you have the Messiah? Do you have the Holy Spirit? Do you have the completed revelation of God? There is no need for God to give you signs. Everything necessary for life and godliness has been given to you.

(continued on other side)

“Watch Out for the Leaven” (continued)

He cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” *Mark 8:15*

Disciples’ response revealed a lack of _____.
Mark 8:16

Jesus’ response: “Do you _____ understand? *8:17-21*

How do you believe that the Messiah would respond to your ability to see, hear and perceive spiritual truth?

What was the _____ of which Jesus was warning the disciples?

Leaven: (yeast) What is it?

ILL.: Passover—*Exodus 12; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Matthew 13:33*

Usually represents sin/uncleanness

Always represents a _____ influence

What was the danger of the _____ of the Pharisees?
Blind guides of the blind *Matthew 15:13-14*

_____ teaching *Matthew 16:12*

_____ *Luke 12:1; Matthew 23:1-7*

What was the danger of the _____ of Herod?
Romans 13:1-3

Use position for _____ purposes *Mk. 6:16-23; Lk. 23:8-12*

Disregard _____ to God *Acts 12:21-23*

What influences in your life resemble these warnings?

How do you believe that the Messiah would respond to your ability to see, hear and perceive truth?

How should you approach life? *Matthew 23:8-12; Isaiah 58:6-10*

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He cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” *Mark 8:15*

Disciples’ response revealed a lack of **comprehension**.

Mark 8:16

Jesus’ response: “Do you **not yet** understand? *8:17-21*

How do you believe that the Messiah would respond to your ability to see, hear and perceive spiritual truth?

What was the **danger** of which Jesus was warning the disciples?

Leaven: (yeast) What is it?

ILL.: Passover—*Exodus 12; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Matthew 13:33*

Usually represents sin/uncleanness

Always represents a **permeating** influence

What was the danger of the **influence** of the Pharisees?

Blind guides of the blind *Matthew 15:13-14*

False teaching *Matthew 16:12*

Hypocrisy *Luke 12:1; Matthew 23:1-7*

What was the danger of the **influence** of Herod? *Romans 13:1-3*

Use position for **own** purposes *Mk. 6:16-23; Lk. 23:8-12*

Disregard **accountability** to God *Acts 12:21-23*

What influences in your life resemble these warnings?

How do you believe that the Messiah would respond to your ability to see, hear and perceive truth?

How should you approach life? *Matthew 23:8-12; Isaiah 58:6-10*