

The First Baptist Church of Columbus

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Sermon Notes Outline for video posted February 14, 2021

T I T L E: BEWARE OF THE LEAVEN: THE NATURE OF LIBERAL CULTURAL INFLUENCE

T E X T: Mark 8:11-21

I. LIBERAL CULTURAL INFLUENCE IS OFTEN SUBTLE AND FOR THE MOST PART SECULAR AS IT ATTEMPTS TO RID THE WORLD OF CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE OR IN THE LEAST DOMINATE CONTEMPORARY THINKING REGARDING RIGHT AND WRONG.

Leaven in this context is a metaphor... a warning to always be alert regarding corruption and evil. The leaven of Herod could easily be a reference to secularism.

- A. **Subtle** — Metaphorical leaven leading to corruption, evil, theological and/or biblical error, etc. can be like yeast in a loaf of bread, subtle, unseen, but nevertheless present.
- B. **Secular** — in this context as I intend it does not mean devoid of all religious content or interest but if it has any religious meaning at all it usually amounts to eisegeses, i.e. taken out of context and interpreted and applied in a manner that fits liberal narrative.

The Pharisees were certainly religious but their approach to life and Christian principles and especially salvation was couched in legalism and a self-righteousness that solicited from the Lord some of the most scathing words He ever spoke during his sojourn this side of heaven.

II. LIBERAL CULTURAL INFLUENCE ON THE SURFACE, AT LEAST IN SOME CASES, APPEARS BASICALLY TO BE INOFFENSIVE OR HARMLESS BUT BENEATH THE SURFACE WHEN PRESSED FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION OR UNDERSTANDING IT IS, AT LEAST ON OCCASION, FOUND TO PROMOTE A WORLDVIEW CONTRARY TO THAT OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Beware of the leaven...

What goes around comes around sounds pretty innocent and it is basically but such an approach to history is contrary to a Christian worldview relative to how history takes place. What goes around comes around suggests that history unfolds in a cyclical manner (forever) which basically is more in tune with ancient Greek philosophy than it is with a Judeo-Christian worldview which teaches that history unfolds in a progressive-linear fashion with a goal in mind but not necessarily a straight line.

Romans 8:30 ---- and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Philippians 1:6 ---- For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

(Linear -Progressive)

The Christian view of history is that history moves in a steady incline but not necessarily a straight line emphasizing that the world had a beginning guided by God with a culminating purpose or goal in mind both personal and cosmic.

III. LIBERAL CULTURAL INFLUENCE TENDS TO ELEVATE THE REASONING OF MAN (SECULAR HUMANISM) ABOVE THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE THUS DISPLAYING BEFORE THE LORD WHAT MAY BE CALLED AN ENLIGHTENED HUMANITY WHICH THE LORD FINDS HUMOROUS AND DESERVING OF DIVINE DISCIPLINE PERHAPS EVEN DIVINE JUDGMENT.

Psalms 94:11 ---- The LORD knows the thoughts of man, that they are a mere breath.

Isaiah 55:8–9 ---- **8** “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. **9** “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

Proverbs 30:5–6 ---- **5** Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. **6** Do not add to His words Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.

New American Commentary — 94:11 The participle yodea?, “knows,” indicates that the Lord continually knows what humans are thinking (cf. Ps 139:4), in contrast to humans who cannot hide what they think from him (cf. v. 7; Ps 73:11). Before the all-knowing God all human schemes are without substance. **Humans think highly of themselves, but before the Lord their plans are just “futile,” only a breath** (hebel; cf. Ps 39:5[6]; Eccl 1:11).

Yahweh knoweth the thoughts of mankind that they are breath]. This is still later, and indeed a prose sentence, asserting on the one hand, over against v. 7, **that God not only knows the deeds of mankind but also their inward thoughts, and on the other hand that He knows how unsubstantial they are.** Briggs, C. A., & Briggs, E. G. (1906–1907). A critical and exegetical commentary on the book of Psalms (pp. 289–290). New York: C. Scribner’s Sons.

Survey conducted by Ligonier Ministries and Lifeway Research: (State of Theology Survey)

A. Leaven in the church related to apologetics and theological heresy.

The survey revealed that 34% of church attending adults ascribe to the idea that “Religious belief is a matter of personal opinion; it is not about objective truth.

55% agree that “Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God.”

65% agree that, “Everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature.”

66% disagree that, “Even the smallest sin deserves eternal damnation.”

B. Leaven in the church related to social error.

58% agree that, "Worshiping alone or with one's family is a valid replacement for regularly attending church."

49% disagree or are unsure that "Abortion is a sin."

57% agree or are unsure that "The Bible's condemnation of homosexual behavior doesn't apply today."

48% agree or are unsure that, "Gender identity is a matter of choice."

Conclusion: Pray for discernment.... Purpose to be salt and light... Gird up the loins of your mind...

1 Peter 1:13 ---- Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.