

"...Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." —Mark 8:15

The story is told in the days of the stagecoach a company was hiring drivers to run through a treacherous mountain pass. The office manager begins interviewing each driver with a question. "How close can you drive the team to the edge of the cliff as you round the mountain pass?" Each driver, in the pride of their experience stated how close they could come. "I can come within three feet." With each successive driver the number got smaller and closer to the edge.

One driver however answered this way. "I would keep the coach and team as far away from the edge as possible." He got the job.

Following Christ is not for the faint of heart and in doing so not everyone will be pleased, like you, or will encourage you in the process. There are enemies of God's kingdom and it would be wise to understand this.



Jesus made it abundantly clear that the world would be in opposition to you, John 7:7. So Jesus says, "beware", and he wants us to be wise. Paul expresses the same thing to the church at Corinth (1Cor 14:20), "do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature."

Maturity comes from knowing and applying the word of God. Being a hearer and a doer of the word, James 1:22. The only way to get there is to spend time in it, doing your best to present yourself to God, rightly handing the truth, 1 Timothy 2:15.

Like Jesus and his disciples, you will run into people with all sorts of varied beliefs and ideas but with the word you can see the error, see the leaven, and gently give corrections. Ideas have consequences and bad ideas have victims.

What ideas have leaven or permeated your life or those of your family? What is the Word's response to those? How can you be better prepared to face them?

How will you spend the time needed to protect yourself, your family, not to run away, but understand and beware of what you will be facing so you can be confident when facing error?