

The Gospel of Luke

A Warning Against Hypocrisy

Luke 12:1-12

1. Beware Who You **Follow** (vs.1-3)

Israel's historically fickle fealty to God was well known and lamented. Jesus calls upon His disciples to be faithful in their allegiance to Him.

A. The **Nature** of Influence (v.1)

The only way for the disciples to remain faithful is to intentionally focus on Jesus' teachings while striving to follow them (cf. John 17:17; Acts 6:4). Carelessly entertaining contrary ideas is a step toward capitulating to them (Ps 119:9; 1 Cor 15:33; Gal 2:12-13).

B. The **Types** of Influence (v.1)

I. The Leaven of the Pharisees: **Hypocrisy** (Luke 12:1)

This is probably the most deadly of leavening agents because it most easily entices and entraps the religious, often initially without their awareness (Matt 6:1-6, 16; Luke 11:38-44).

II. The Leaven of the Sadducees: **Teaching** (Matt 16:6-12)

Teachings which are developed from adding to (Mark 7:12) or subtracting from God's Word (Luke 20:27) are both dangerous. Any deviation from holding all of divine revelation as the unique source and ultimate authority for divine truth is the first loose pebble in an inevitable avalanche of compromise and error.

III. The Leaven of Herod: **Immorality** (Mark 8:15)

Herod was a man whose carnal passions governed his actions and led to decisions he otherwise would have avoided (Mark 6:17ff). Though it is completely opposite from the teachings of Christ, immoral conduct has always been a deadly snare for the religiously minded (2 Pet 2:13-14; 1 John 2:15).

C. The **Integrity** of Influence (vs.2-3)

Jesus had already exposed the Pharisees hypocrisy (Luke 11:39ff). God knows man's heart and He will not be fooled by faux faith; He will expose it (Jer 17:10; Rom 2:16; 1 Cor 4:5; 1 Tim 5:24).

2. Beware Who You **Fear** (vs.4-7)

3. Beware To Whom You Are **Faithful** (vs.8-10)

4. Be at Peace Before Your **Foes** (vs.11-12)