

“As they were crossing the lake, Jesus warned them, “Watch out! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod.” Mark 8:15 NLT

lectio // Mark 8:14-21

So what is this “yeast” disease Jesus is talking about? What do the Pharisees have in common with Herod? Yeast was always used as a object lesson for something practically invisible, invasive and infectious. What was it about the disciples response that caused Jesus to warn them about the comparison? BTW, in Matthew 16:5 includes the Sadducees. What did all three of these power groups have in common? A lack of belief? Yes. Demanding signs as a substitute for faith? Yes. Missing the mission of Christ? Yes. Did it even have something to do with provision and the fear of not having enough? Jesus had just finished producing a miraculous reproduction of bread, turning a few into thousands (get the similarities of Jesus abundantly being the bread of life?). The disciples scrambling over the one loaf to be enough to supply for all of them may have caused Jesus to speak to the comparison. That be like Jesus comparing you to your most awful, hated political figure! Saying, “when you act like that you remind me of _____.” The religious leaders were all about publicly looking a certain way, but their private life was atrocious. Their ways, their motives were culturally invisible, invasive and infectious. So, Jesus was laying down a strong warning to nip that attitude in the bud before it bloomed or before it spread to the whole group. This is such a good model for what’s missing in the church today - an admonition. Just the ability for a spiritual leader to speak into someone’s life with love and authority to say: STOP IT! That thought, that comment will start forest fires, wars or church splits.

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Dad,

Do we have the kind of love to admonish one another like Jesus did with his followers. That quick, sharp ability to call out a yeast infected thought that turns into a comment that turns into a cause? That’s discipline. That’s correction. That’s missing in today’s church. Help me, as a leader, to admonish to nip a thought or a comment in the bud before it blooms.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root