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Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

One of the valuable lessons that come out of a study of the book of Matthew is understanding how multitudes of people could go from believing and supporting Jesus to screaming “crucify him.” There are many today who would stand side by side in the battles against truth yet latter down the road they are found standing in other positions posturing for those they once condemned. What happens to people? Why the sudden shift in conviction?

During Jesus’ day there were multitudes of people that followed him. When Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount multitudes sat and listened (Matt. 4:25). When Jesus left the mountain scene multitudes followed (Matt. 8:1). There were times when Jesus had to get away from the people due to their numbers (Matt. 8:18). Jesus was moved with compassion when he looked upon the multitudes and thereby taught them truth and healed them of their sicknesses (Matt. 9:35ff; 14:14). The Lord’s message was that of repentance due to the fact that the kingdom of God was at hand (Matt. 4:17, 23; 10:7). The people respond to the Lord’s miracles and teaching with faithful belief. When Jesus made his triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem the multitudes shouted, “*Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest*” (Matt. 21:9). Furthermore when others of Jerusalem asked what was going on the multitudes gave a uniform answer of faith saying, “*This is the prophet, Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee*” (Matt. 21:11).

There were other occasions when the believing multitudes thwarted the wicked plans of the chief priests

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors. We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will asks questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

Health Updates:

Jean Hall received a favorable report after a recent biopsy. **Toline Witherspoon** is already walking after her knee surgery. She went to the doctor this past Thursday and had the stitches removed and is doing great. **Hobby Miller** is getting around a bit more but is still sore from his recent fall. Hobby strained muscles in his chest and back but is on the mend.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

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692-0489 (Home).

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and Pharisees to do Jesus harm (cf. Matt. 21:46). To some it may be a mystery as to how these same multitudes are latter found crying, “*crucify him, crucify him*” (Lk. 23:21). Matthew records, “*Pilate saith unto them, What then shall I do unto Jesus who is called Christ? They ALL say, Let him be crucified.... And ALL the people answered and said, His blood be on us, and on our children*” (Matt. 27:22-25). What changed the believing multitudes minds? What changes people’s minds today?

Jesus had earlier warned that the leavening effects of the Pharisees false teaching would pervert the hearts of many. Jesus said, “*But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Then understood they that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees*” (Matt. 16:11-12). The leavening effects of the Pharisees and Sadducees teaching ran deep and multitudinous. Matthew records, “*Now the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas, and destroy Jesus...*” (Matt. 27:20). A people who had an initial faith now had it robbed. They had taken the false teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees hook, line, and sinker.

Today, it may seem like a “*strange thing*” (cf. Hos. 8:12) for elders, preachers, deacons, and members of the body of Christ to warn others about the false doctrines of our day; however, to Jesus it is not strange. Jesus’ apostles spent much of their teaching warning others against the leavening affects of false teachings (cf. Acts 15:1ff; Gal. 1:6ff.; I Cor. 15:12; II Tim. 2:16-18; II Pet. 2:1ff.). It is truly disheartening to find one who once stood firm in truth yet now is protecting and practicing the beliefs of those he once condemned. Error is truly a leaven that has the power to persuade one away from truth. Jesus said it is so. Let us thereby not be dissuaded by the masses who think it strange that we warn but rather continue in confident assurance as we do the work of Jesus. Souls are at stake!

John C.

Robertson

Indwelling of the Godhead

Important Terms for Study:

- **Abide** (*meno*) is “to stay, stand fast, abide, in battle... to stay at home, stay where one is, not stir...to stay, tarry... to abide by an opinion, conviction, etc.,” (LS 498).
- **Dwell** (*katoikeo*) = “to dwell in... to inhabit, to be administered, governed” (LS 423).
- **Godhead** (*theios*) = “divinity, deity” (Moulton 193). “The essential and divine nature of God” (AHD 565).
- **Nature** = “the essential characteristics and qualities of a person or thing” (AHD 832).

The Bible tells us that the Godhead dwells within the Christian:

- God dwells in the Christian (I Jn. 4:12-16).
- The Father dwells within the Christian (Jn. 14:23).
- Jesus dwells in the Christian (Eph. 3:17; Col. 1:27).
- The Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian (Rom. 8:9-11; II Tim. 1:13-14).

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my words: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s who sent me”

John 14:23-24
Cf. II Pet. 1:4

Let us examine how the Godhead Dwells within the Christian:

- Deity and His essential characteristics dwell within the Christian through the gospel message (Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:23-29).
- When I walk by God’s divine standards I take on the divine nature of the godhead (Rom. 8:9-10; I Cor. 6:17; Phil. 1:1; 3:9).
- When one looked upon Jesus they actually saw the Father due to their united stand in truth (cf. Jn. 14:7-9). Likewise, when a Christian looks in the mirror they see the reflection of the godhead because we have taken upon us the divine nature (II Pet. 1:4) having received the word of truth (II Cor. 3:18). Some say, “you are what you eat.” The same is true of the gospel message. If I eat the gospel message it become a part of who and what I am (cf. Jn. 6:47-51).
- Not only does the godhead dwell in the Christian who has received truth but Christians dwell within each other; i.e., they share in the divine nature (cf. Jn. 17:20-21; I Cor. 5:3).
- Those who have the indwelling of the godhead actually have God working within them (Phil. 2:13) through the word of God (I Thess. 2:13) unto salvation (Rom. 1:16).
- When “in the Holy Spirit” we can proclaim “abba Father” (Rom. 8:15) and “Jesus is Lord” (I Cor. 12:3). Without the word of God we could not be in the godhead and neither would we have the knowledge to make such proclamations.
- To have the spirit of God dwelling within (I Cor. 3:16; 6:19-20) is equated to being filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18-19) which is defined as receiving the word of Christ (Col. 3:16; I Jn. 2:5-6).
- My faith determines whether God dwells within me (i.e., I exhibit divine characteristics that are revealed through truth) (cf. Eph. 3:17).

Consider these divine character traits that I may learn through the gospel message and implement into my life:

- God is Holy (Lev. 11:44; I Pet. 1:15-16)
- Perfect (Matt. 5:48)
- Patient (II Pet. 3:9),
- Merciful (Deut. 4:31)
- Comforting (II Cor. 1:3).
- God is love (I Jn. 4:8)
- God is peace (I Cor. 14:33).
- God is compassionate (Matt. 14:14).
- God hates sin (I Jn. 1:5; Rom. 12:9).
- God represents truth (Jn. 15:26) and the devil represents lies (Jn. 8:44).