

**August 9th 2020, One Day at a Time
Part 3 in the series 'Ready for Anything'**

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

The Pharisees and the Sadducees were opposed to each other, however they apparently found common ground in a shared opposition to Jesus.

READ: Matthew 16:1-3

16 The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. **2** He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' **3** and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

What is so ironic about this passage?

A: The religious leaders couldn't read the signs pointing to the one thing that they have been waiting for for so long- the Messiah arriving. However, they can interpret the weather, which by comparison is not nearly as important.

READ: Matthew 16:5-12

5 When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. **6** "Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

7 They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread."

8 Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? **9** Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? **10** Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? **11** How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." **12** Then they understood that he

was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Why don't the disciples need to worry about food?

A: they have seen Jesus perform miracles involving food before. They should know they will be well fed and do not need to worry.

What does Jesus mean when He says "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."?

A: The Pharisees and Sadducees will their hearts and minds with values and beliefs that will act like leaven, that works its way into their thinking and draws them away from Jesus, leaving them to become fixated by the things of this world.

Can you think of contemporary versions of the Pharisees and Sadducees that may work into your mind and hearts like leaven?

Can you draw any parallels between the Pharisees and Sadducees wanting a sign from heaven, and the disciples not understanding Jesus about the yeast?