

Matthew 16:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Analysis

This text illustrates key Reformed principles: sola Scriptura, sola gratia, and sola fide. The passage demonstrates how God's Word speaks authoritatively to human need, revealing both our depravity and God's merciful provision through Christ.

Historical Context

First-century Palestine was marked by religious fervor and political tension. The passage reflects interactions between Jesus and various groups: Pharisees, Sadducees, disciples, and crowds. Each audience received teaching tailored to their needs and spiritual condition.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does this text reveal about human nature and God's grace?

2. How can you apply this teaching to current struggles or questions?
3. What changes in thinking or behavior does this passage require?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	Ἰησοῦς	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	Ὁρᾶτε	καὶ	προσέχετε
G3588	Then	Jesus	said	unto them	Take heed	and	beware
	G1161	G2424	G2036	G846	G3708	G2532	G4337
ἀπὸ	τῆς	ζύμης	τῶν	Φαρισαίων	καὶ	Σαδδουκαίων	
of	G3588	the leaven	G3588	of the Pharisees	and	of the Sadducees	
G575		G2219		G5330	G2532	G4523	

Additional Cross-References

Luke 12:1 (Resurrection): In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Galatians 5:9 (Parallel theme): A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

Mark 8:15 (Resurrection): And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.

Matthew 16:12 (Resurrection): Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Leviticus 2:11 (Parallel theme): No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of the LORD made by fire.