

# Extra Teaching Points

## Chapter 9

Matt. 6:1-18

There are 3 practices here that Jesus talks about.

- Charitable deeds (vs. 1-4)
- Praying (vs. 5-7)
- Fasting (vs. 16-18)

It is clear that He says we are not to do them to draw attention to ourselves.

- Jesus uses a similar approach to the one He used in [Matt. 5](#).
  - In [Matt. 5](#) Jesus repeated the phrase: “You’ve heard it said \_\_\_\_, but I say \_\_\_\_.”
  - In [Matt. 6](#) Jesus repeats the phrase: “When you do \_\_\_\_, do not do it like the hypocrites; for they do it in \_\_\_\_ way to be seen by men. But when you do \_\_\_\_, you do it in \_\_\_\_ way, and you will be rewarded by your Father in heaven.”

**In each case, He says the hypocrites already have their reward.**

### [Matt. 6:1](#)

Jesus starts this section with a warning He doesn’t use very often. He tells us to “Beware” or “Be careful” or “take heed.”

- He uses this warning here in:
  - [Matt. 7:15](#) False prophets
  - [Matt. 10:17](#) Men who will hand you over
  - [Matt. 16:6](#) Leaven of the Pharisees & Sadducees
  - [Matt. 16:11](#) Leaven of the Pharisees & Sadducees
  - [Luke 12:1](#) Leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy
  - [Luke 17:3](#) Giving-in to being offended
  - [Luke 20:46](#) Scribes
  - [Luke 21:34](#) Weighed down heart
  - [Mark 8:15](#) Leaven of the Pharisees & Leaven of Herod

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### **“Beware the Leaven”**

Leaven (or yeast) is something that works silently. It will take over and change the entire lump of dough.

- Jesus also compared the Kingdom to leaven ([Matt 13:33](#)).

**Jesus only combined the warning to “beware” and “leaven” in reference to three groups of people.**

- In [Luke 12:1](#) Jesus said to beware the leaven of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy**.
- In [Mark 8:15](#) Jesus warned of the leaven of Herod.
  - The leaven of Herod is most likely **procrastination**.
    - Herod liked talking to John the Baptist ([Mark 6:20](#)), but never responded.
    - Eventually he had to kill John ([Mark 6:26-28](#)).
- In [Matt. 16:6-12](#) Jesus warned against the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
  - The leaven of the Sadducees was **worldliness**.
    - (*From Unger’s Bible Dictionary*) Josephus repeatedly designates them as those who gain only the rich, and have not the people on their side (*Ant. 13.10.6*).
      - What Josephus really means is that the Sadducees were the aristocrats, the wealthy, and the persons of rank from the *priesthood*.

- [Acts 5:17](#) and Josephus (*Ant.* 20.9.1) testifies that the high-priestly families belonged to the Sadducee party.
  - The Sadducees were not, however, merely the priestly party but **aristocratic priests**.

We are to be on our guard, and alert to these influences that can spread rapidly in the church!

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**Q: Why doesn't Jesus warn us the same way about murder, drunkenness, or blasphemy?**

- People can spot those kinds of sins fairly easily; but hypocrisy, procrastination, and worldliness can sneak in and mask themselves in religion.
- His call to "beware" certain sins is because of their ability to sneak up and hide in plain sight.

**Q: Jesus warns us to "beware of practicing our righteousness before men." In [Matt. 5:16](#) Jesus told us to let our light shine before men. Is there a contradiction here?**

- No! Jesus is talking about motive.
- Jesus is drawing a difference between wanting to be righteous before the Lord, and wanting to be seen as righteous before men.

### **[Matt. 6:2](#)**

In Jesus' day, being called a hypocrite wasn't an insult like it is today.

- A hypocrite was an actor; that's what the word meant.
- But the context of calling a religious person an actor was definitely an insult.
  - **Jesus was appealing to the motives behind why people do even good things.**

### **[Matt. 6:3](#)**

When we do righteous acts we can sometimes be praised and noticed for it.

- There can be a temptation to enjoy that praise and attention, and thus begin to seek it.
  - We can be very easily deceived into thinking we do what we do for God's reward only, and in reality be craving people noticing and praising us.
- **There is a real danger of Christians being more righteous when there is a likelihood of people finding out and respecting them for it.**
  - **If you do things so people will notice, then their noticing is the only reward you will receive!**
  - **If you are motivated to do something by your love of God, and your desire to please Him... He will reward that!**

## **Chapter 9 Follow Up Assignment**

Q: How do you feel when nobody notices or praises you for your charity, your prayer life, or your fasting?

- Would you be more interested in doing these things if people noticed and gave you lots of praise?

Q: How are you guarding yourself against the Leaven of the Pharisees (Hypocrisy)?

Q: How are you guarding yourself against the Leaven of the Sadducees (Worldliness)?

Q: How are you guarding yourself against the Leaven of Herod (Procrastination)?