

TOXIC

A CASE OF CONTAMINATION

YEASTY RELIGION

Let no yeast be found in your possession in all your land for seven days.

Deuteronomy 16:4a

4 GROUPS 2 EXTREMES 1 PROBLEM

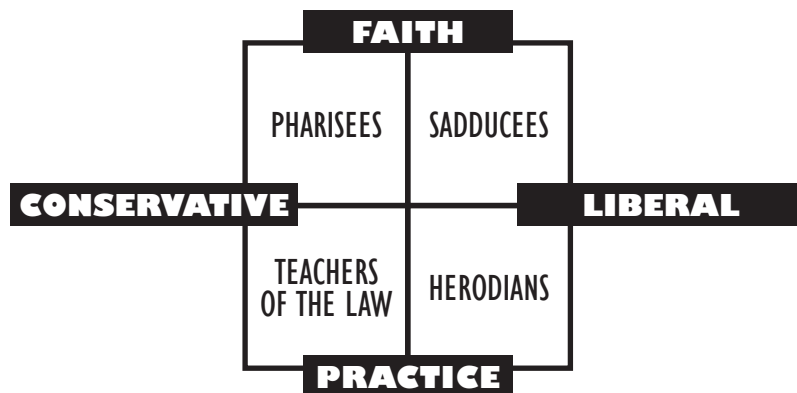
The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵“Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.” ¹⁶They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.” *Mark 8:14-16*

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.” ¹²Then 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. *Matthew 16:5-6; 12*

“Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.” ⁵³When Jesus left there, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, ⁵⁴waiting to catch him in something he might say. *Luke 11:52-54*

2 EXTREMES



3 SIGNS OF TOXICITY

HYPOCRISY

Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” *Luke 12:1*

LEGALISM

(rule-based external emphasis)

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and ²saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were “unclean,” that is, unwashed. ³(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) *Mark 7:1-4*

JUDGMENTALISM

When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. ³⁸But the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised. *Luke 11:37-38*

Where love is central, law loses its power and its necessity.
Where love is absent, law becomes central and the best we can do.
(derived from Galatians 5:22-23)

NEXT STEPS

RESOURCES *(available at JW Bookstore)*

The Divine Conspiracy -- Dallas Willard

Connecting -- Larry Crabb

The Safest Place on Earth -- Larry Crabb

The Jesus I Never Knew -- Philip Yancy