

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 27

**THE YEAST OF THE
PHARISEES**

MARK 8:14-21

Life of Christ

The Yeast of the Pharisees

Mark 8:14-21

Younger Verse

Let God change the way you think.

Romans 12:2

Older Verse

Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think.

Romans 12:2

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus warned His disciples about bad influences
Recognize that we need to be careful about who and what we listen to
Understand that we need to listen and understand Jesus' words

Opener

Have you ever noticed the warning labels on certain products? They warn us about not drinking things that are bad for us, or not to use something the wrong way. Warnings are important because they help protect us from bad things.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned that Jesus fed 4,000 people with only seven loaves of bread and 3 fish. This was the second time Jesus had fed a large number of people with just a little food. Those were amazing miracles that only Jesus, God's Son, could have done.

Jesus and His disciples were in a boat. They were crossing the lake to go to the other side. The disciples began to look around the boat. What were they searching for? Bread! Why do you think they were looking for bread? Maybe they were hungry. Soon they realized that they had forgotten to bring some. All they had was one loaf of bread, and it was very small.

Well, Jesus saw what they were doing, so He decided He would teach them an important lesson. He said to them, "Be careful. Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and of King Herod."

Now let's pause for a minute. What was Jesus trying to tell them? Who knows what yeast is? Yeast is put in bread before it is ready to be eaten. Once the bread goes into the oven, the yeast is what makes the bread get bigger. Sandwich bread and rolls both have yeast in them. Tortillas do not have yeast. It does not take very much yeast to make the bread rise. Just a small amount of yeast will affect all of the bread.

The Pharisees were people that thought it was more important to follow the rules than to love God. They thought they understood how to obey God, but when Jesus came to show them the right way, they did not want to listen. Herod was a king that did many bad and terrible things. Jesus was warning His disciples about the bad influence the Pharisees and Herod could have on them and everyone else. Jesus was warning them because He knew that those

people could sway or persuade other people not to believe in what He taught.

When the disciples heard what Jesus said, they began to look at each other. They spoke to each other and said, “Jesus said this because we have no bread.” Jesus heard them talking about the bread. Jesus knew that they still did not understand what He was telling them.

Jesus said, “Why are you still talking about having no bread? Do you still not understand? You have eyes, but you do not see. You have ears, but you do not hear. When I broke the five loaves of bread for the 5,000, how many baskets of food were left over? “Twelve,” they answered. “And when I broke the bread for the 4,000, how many baskets were left over?” “Seven,” they replied. “You have seen me do all these things and yet you still do not understand?”

Jesus must have been a little frustrated with the disciples; they had spent time with Him and had seen Him do amazing miracles, but they still did not completely understand who Jesus was. It was not until after Jesus died on the cross and came back to life that the disciples really knew that Jesus was God’s Son.

Do *you* understand who Jesus is? He is the Son of God. He died on the cross and then came back to life. He did that so that you could have a clean heart. Jesus is the only one who can remove all the bad things, sins, from your heart. All you need to do is ask Him. If you think you are ready today, please talk with me before you leave.

Review Questions

1. What did Jesus mean by the yeast of the Pharisees and King Herod? (the influence of the Pharisees and King Herod)
2. What did the disciples think Jesus was talking about? (They thought He was telling them they didn’t have bread to eat.)
3. Why did Jesus tell the disciples they had eyes but didn’t see, and they had ears but could not hear? (They saw and heard what Jesus did, but they didn’t really understand the deeper meaning.)

Prayer Time

Thank God for sending Jesus to show us the way to know God. Pray that we will understand who He is and believe in Him.

Life Application

Jesus warned his disciples to watch out for bad influences, but He was also warning us. Things around us can influence us: music, TV, friends, video games, books, magazines, etc. There can be positive influences, but there can also be negative influences. If something tempts us to sin, then it is a bad influence. If it starts to take up more time than we spend with God, then it is a bad influence. We must choose carefully what we surround ourselves with.

Planning for Lesson 28
Jesus Heals a Blind Man
Mark 8:22-26

Preschool Lesson for The Yeast of the Pharisees

Hey, boys and girls! It is good to see all of you here today. We have been talking about bread in our past few lessons. Jesus fed 5,000 people and then 4,000 people with only a little bread. How many of you like bread?

Jesus and His disciples were together in a boat crossing a lake. The disciples began to look around for the bread they had brought. But it was nowhere to be found. They looked and looked and all they found was one little loaf of bread. It was not enough for all the disciples and Jesus to eat.

Jesus saw them looking around for bread. He decided He wanted to teach them something very important. He said, “Be careful about the yeast of the Pharisees and King Herod.”

The disciples did not understand why Jesus told them this. They thought He said this because they had forgotten the bread. Jesus had talked about yeast because that is an ingredient used to make bread rise. When bread is inside of an oven it rises. All it takes is a little bit of yeast to make bread get bigger.

Jesus loved the disciples. He knew that they were going to be very important to help others know about God’s love. So He reminded them about how they saw Him feed many, many people with just a little bread and fish. Only God could have done something as awesome as that. Even though they saw Jesus do that, they still had a hard time understanding that Jesus was God’s Son.

The disciples never really understood that Jesus was God’s Son until after He died on the cross and came back to life. Once they saw Him alive, they went and told everybody about God’s love.

Jesus wants us to be careful about what we listen to as well. Whether it is the TV, radio, friends, or books, they can all change how we think about things. The most important One to listen to is Jesus. We can listen to Him at Bible Study or when we read our Bible. Jesus will help us to know how to make the right choices.

**Hands-on Activities
for
The Yeast of the Pharisees**

Sing the song “Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes What you See, (little ears what you hear, little feet where you go, etc.).

Make yeast bread or prepare the yeast in water and watch it bubble. (It may need a little sugar to help activate the yeast.)

Make a list of good and bad things that have influenced changes in the kids’ lives. Talk about any changes they could make and how they do it.

Bring cut-out eyes and ears and talk about when Jesus told the disciples they had eyes and ears, but they did not see or hear. Share with them the importance of praying about the things they do not understand, asking God to help them know the meaning of the things they learn from the Bible.

Let God
change the
way you
think.

Romans
12:2

**Don't be like the
people of this
world, but let
God change the
way you think.
Romans 12:2**

Word Search

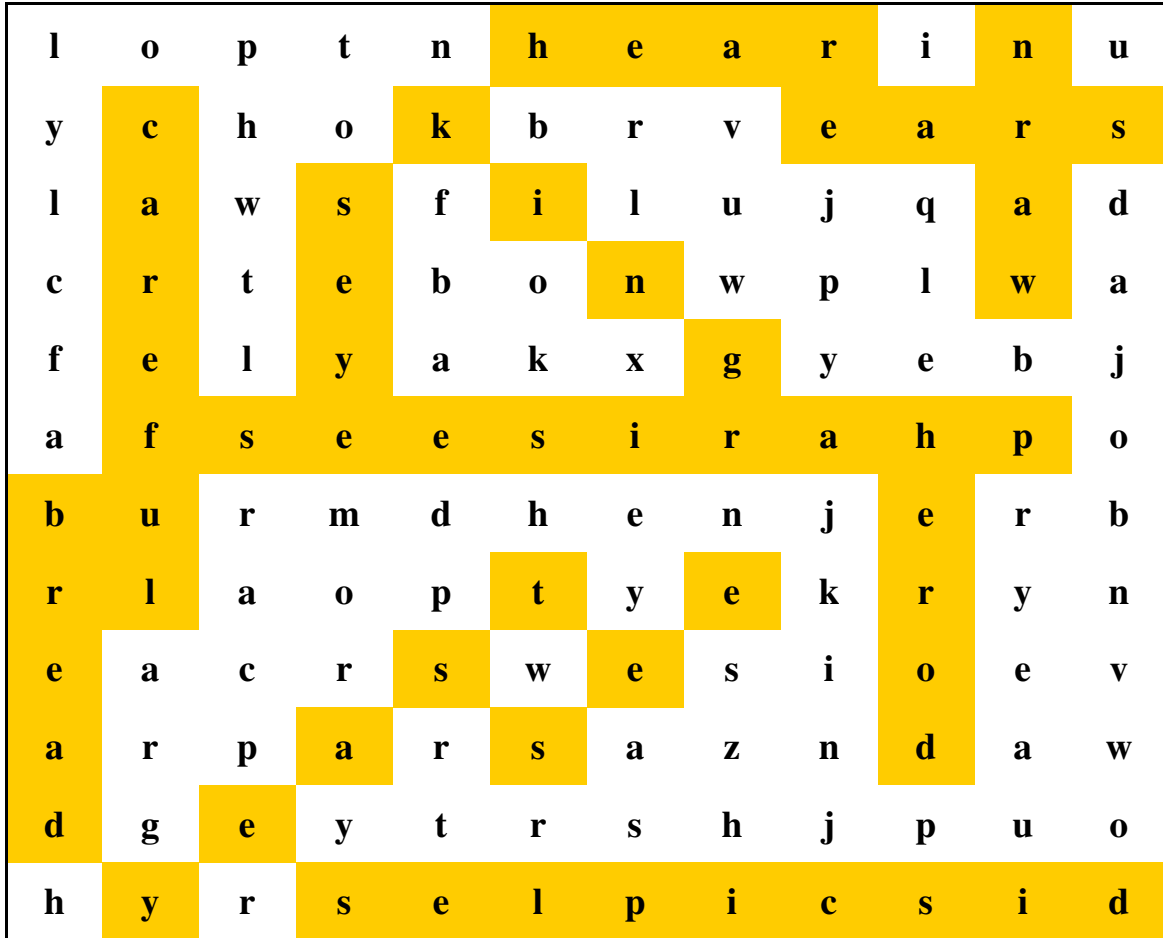
The Yeast of the Pharisees

l	o	p	t	n	h	e	a	r	i	n	u
y	c	h	o	k	b	r	v	e	a	r	s
l	a	w	s	f	i	l	u	j	q	a	d
c	r	t	e	b	o	n	w	p	l	w	a
f	e	l	y	a	k	x	g	y	e	b	j
a	f	s	e	e	s	i	r	a	h	p	o
b	u	r	m	d	h	e	n	j	e	r	b
r	l	a	o	p	t	y	e	k	r	y	n
e	a	c	r	s	w	e	s	i	o	e	v
a	r	p	a	r	s	a	z	n	d	a	w
d	g	e	y	t	r	s	h	j	p	u	o
h	y	r	s	e	l	p	i	c	s	i	d

yeast	Pharisees	king
Herod	warn	careful
disciples	bread	eyes
ears	see	hear

Word Search

The Yeast of the Pharisees



yeast	Pharisees	king
Herod	warn	careful
disciples	bread	eyes
ears	see	hear

Jesus said to be careful of the

YEAST

of the Pharisees.

