

Leaven of Pharisees and Sadducees

4/4/26

- Today – Opportunity to give a Bible study
- Comment – Happy to share this time with you – during the Days of Unleavened Bread
- Title – “Leaven of Pharisees and Sadducees”
- Comment – Some of this material was discussed in 2008, 2010 and 2016
- Starting scripture – Matthew 16:5-12 – “beware of the leaven of Pharisees & Sadducees”

Strong’s concordance

Sadducee	mentioned 14 times
Pharisee	mentioned 100 times

· A few basic differences between Sadducees and Pharisees

Sadducees

believed strongly in Torah
minimized oral law

Sanhedrin (majority of seats)
temple & council

chief priests & high priest
(bloody sacrifices)

wealthy upper-class
more secular
interested – Roman politics

no resurrection
no angels or spirit world

Pharisees

believed Torah and more
championed oral law
(promoted scriptural interpretation)

influence because of masses
synagogues & masses
(synagogue – was considered a Pharisee institution)
(temple destruction – power of synagogue grew)

scribes and lawyers
(prayer & study – teaching & rituals)

middle-class businessmen
more religious
less interested in politics

resurrection
angels and spirit world

Because the Sadducees were often more concerned with politics than religion, they ignored Jesus until they began to fear He might bring unwanted Roman attention and upset the status quo. It was at that point that the Sadducees and Pharisees set aside their differences, united and conspired to put Christ to death.

· How did the sect of the Sadducees affect the Church of God?

Acts 4:1	priests – captain of the temple – Sadducees
2	disturbed – that they preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead
15-21	the council threatened the apostles
Acts 5:17	high priest and those with him – which is the sect of the Sadducees
18-20	put the apostles into prison – they were released by an angel
21	the high priest (and those with him) – called the council together – with all the elders
24	when the high priest, the captain of the temple and the chief priests.....
27	set them before the council
29	Peter – “we ought to obey God rather than men”
1 Cor. 15:12-16	how say some among you (saints) that there is no resurrection of the dead?
Acts 23:6-8	no resurrection, angel or spirit
Matt. 22:23-33	Sadducees – (also Mark 12:18 and Luke 20:27)
28	in the resurrection, whose wife shall she be?
29	“you do err – not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God”
32	“God is not the God of the dead, but of the living”

· Pharisees

Luke 5:17	Pharisees and “doctors” of the law
John 3:1-10	Nicodemus – a Pharisee – a ruler of the Jews
Acts 5:34	a Pharisee (Gamaliel) in the council – teacher of the law
Acts 22:3	Paul – learned at the feet of Gamaliel – according to the strictness of the law of the fathers – zealous toward God
Acts 26:5	Paul – “after the most strictest sect of our religion, I lived a Pharisee”
Phil. 3:4-6	past credentials for trusting in the flesh

· How did the sect of the Pharisees affect the Church of God?

Matt. 5:20	your righteousness must exceed the righteousness of scribes & Pharisees
Matt. 23:1-12	loved the pre-eminence
13-33	hypocrisy
Luke 11:39-52	hypocrisy
53-54	seeking to catch something out of His mouth – to accuse Him
Luke 12:1-3	leaven of the Pharisees = hypocrisy
Luke 18:9-14	trusted in own righteousness & despised others
Acts 15:1-5	some of the sect of the Pharisees (who believed) rose up and said: “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses”
Gal. 2:4	false brethren – secretly brought in to spy out our liberty