

Lent *devotions*

READ:

Mark 8:1-21 ([click to open link](#))

REFLECT:

I love to cook, baking is a different world for me. I don't do much of it. Besides, there are people in my family who are much better at it and love it much more than I do. And they don't burn things. As a result, a number of baking terms escape me. And so, in this case, I can see why the disciples missed Jesus' point with his statement on yeast.

The disciples just saw Jesus feed 5000 people and now they're in a boat and forgot to bring enough bread. As if they didn't learn their lesson. But Jesus wanted to teach them something else. A lesson on humility, about pride.

And so, he brings up this example telling them to beware of the yeast of the Pharisees. Yeast, it's that stuff that makes bread rise. When added to dough, it grows, expands and puffs up. And the yeast, of the Pharisees does the same thing. They let their position, their power, their influence puff them up.

The other thing about yeast? A little bit goes a long way. Just pinch is enough to make the dough rise for a loaf of bread.

After seeing Jesus perform miracles of feeding the 5000, feeding the 4000, healing the sick, it could be easy for the disciples to start to develop some pride, some arrogance. So Jesus take a moment to remind them and help them stay humble.

RESPOND:

Have you ever noticed how just a little success can give you a false confidence, or inflate your ego? It doesn't take much to cause us to feel pride or arrogance. Think about a time your ego got in the way. How did it impact your situation? Take a moment today to write down 2-3 things you can do to help keep your pride in check?