



**DEVOTION:** August 4, 2019

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*Beware Hypocrisy*  
**William Hoagland**

He began saying to His disciples first of all, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” Luke 12:1b

“Beware” He said. There was a danger that threatened his disciples. They had to be warned or else they would also fall.

There is something about a bakery that lures us in. It’s no secret: it’s the smell. I have found myself intentionally walking by a bakery, not to buy, just to smell. Yet, somehow, I still end up paying for something. I particularly like raised baked goods. Light and fluffy? Yes, please. All you need is a little leaven. Given time, the leaven takes over whatever we put it in. Don’t underestimate leaven. It can make something look three or four times greater than what it really is. Don’t be fooled, it is only puffed up.

The Pharisees had fallen into hypocrisy. Hypocrisy spreads like a virus, like leaven. Given time, it takes over anyone who accepts it. Don’t underestimate hypocrisy. It can make someone look three or four times greater than who he/she really is. Don’t be fooled, they are only puffed up.

Jesus warned his disciples because they were not exempt. We have been warned because we are not immune to Hypocrisy. As a follower of Jesus, you should not tolerate any hint hypocrisy in your life.



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