

I. Read Luke 12:1-3

- A. The Greek word for hypocrisy is *hupokrisis*. The Greek word for hypocrite is *hypokrites*. According to *Vine's Expository Dictionary*, it denotes a stage actor. It was the custom that Greek and Roman actors wore large masks and used mechanical devices for manipulating their voices. Consequently, the term for hypocrite came to mean one who spoke or acted with the intent of appearing as someone else — a *dissembler*. How were the Pharisees *dissembling*?
- B. The Greek word for leaven is *zume*. According to *Vine's*, it often referred to “sour dough in a high state of fermentation...” which was...“used in general to make bread.” During the time of Passover, its use was forbidden in order to draw attention to the haste of the Exodus — hence, the unleavened bread. In the New Testament, *zume* or *leaven* is often used as a metaphor for “corrupt doctrine” and “error mixed with truth.” When Jesus refers to the “leaven of Pharisees,” what does He mean?
- C. Why is hypocrisy likened to leaven in verse 1?
- D. How is legalism related to hypocrisy?
- E. In verse 2, Jesus states an important truth. He says that all hypocritical actions will one day be revealed for what they are. Will this *revealing* always happen in one's own lifetime?
- F. In verse 3, Jesus is specifically warning the Pharisees that their hypocritical accusations and conspiracies against Him will be exposed for what they are one day. Nevertheless, His warning is also a declaration that *all men's words* will come to light one day as well, either in this life or on the Day of Judgment. Read James 1:26, 3:2-12, and discuss the problem of the untamed tongue.

G. List the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.

Which are especially related to the use of one's tongue?

The works of the flesh are given in Galatians 5:19-21. Read this passage and list them.

Which of the works of the flesh listed are particularly related to the tongue?

H. Read Ephesians 5:18-21 and explain the instruction given.