

**BEWARE**

<sup>1</sup> It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> At last we have freedom, for Christ has set us free! We must always cherish this truth and firmly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past. (TPT)

**- GALATIANS 5:1**

6 Jesus said to them, **Be careful** and on your guard against the leaven (ferment) of the Pharisees and Sadducees. How is it that you fail to understand that I was not talking to you about bread?

- **MATTHEW 16:6**

<sup>11</sup> But **beware** of the leaven (ferment) of the Pharisees and Sadducees. <sup>12</sup> Then they discerned that He did not tell them to **beware** of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

- **MATTHEW 16:11-12 AMPC**

# 1. JESUS FORGIVES

The religious spirit condemns

**5** And when Jesus saw their faith [their confidence in God through Him], He said to the paralyzed man, Son, your sins are forgiven [you] and put away [that is, the penalty is remitted, the sense of guilt removed, and you are made upright and in right standing with God].

**- MARK 2:5 AMPC**

6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, holding a dialogue with themselves as they questioned in their hearts, Why does this Man talk like this? He is blaspheming! 7 Who can forgive sins [remove guilt, remit the penalty, and bestow righteousness instead] except God alone?"

**- MARK 2:6-7 AMPC**

**11** I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

**- MARK 2:11-12 NIV**



## 2. JESUS LOVES

The religious spirit looks down on others

**15** "And as Jesus, together with His disciples, sat at table in his [Levi's] house, many tax collectors and persons [definitely stained] with sin were dining with Him, for there were many who walked the same road (followed) with Him. And the scribes [belonging to the party] of the Pharisees, when they saw that He was eating with [those definitely known to be especially wicked] sinners and tax collectors, said to His disciples, Why does He eat and drink with tax collectors and [notorious] sinners?"

**- MARK 2:15-16 AMPC**

**13** Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

**- MATTHEW 3:27-28 NIV**

# 3. JESUS HEALS

The religious spirit wants to hide what's not whole

Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there." Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to

**- Mark 3:1 -6 NIV**

do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus."

**- Mark 3:1 -6 NIV**

# 4. JESUS IS HUMBLE

The religious spirit demands honor

Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.

**- LUKE 11:43 NIV**



Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes  
before honor.

**- PROVERBS 15:33 NIV**

“But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being. And after He had appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross! Therefore [because He stooped so low] God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,”

**- PHILIPPIANS 2:7-9 AMPC**

# 5. JESUS LIGHTENS OUR LOAD

The religious spirit weighs us down with heavy burdens

Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

**- LUKE 11:46 NIV**

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

**- MATTHEW 11:29-30 NIV**

He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.

**- MARK 3:14-15 NIV**

'Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against your magic charms with which you ensnare people like birds and I will tear them from your arms; I will set free the people that you ensnare like birds.'

**- EZEKIEL 13:20 NIV**

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

**- LUKE 4:18 NIV**



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