

Problem:

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5. How do these verses set up the problem we face today in trying to live out our faith?

CPT:***Gentile faith (Matthew 15:21-28)***

- what is significant about Jesus going to the district of Tyre and Sidon?
 - Read Matthew 11:20-22 for the answer.
- what was so bad about the Canaanites?
 - Read Deuteronomy 18:9-13 for an answer.
- How does Jesus' response to this woman relate to us?
 - Read Ephesians 2:11-13 for the answer.
- two people of great faith in Matthew are Gentiles (Matt. 8:10-13) who loved and believed the promise to Israel (Luke 7:1-10).
 - What picture was Matthew painting for us?

They should have been jealous (Matthew 15:29-39)

- assuming this was a Gentile crowd, what was Jesus' strategy here?
 - Read Romans 11 for a plausible answer.
 - Romans 11:25-27 points out that one day God will turn again and save the nation of Israel. It refers to the New Covenant of Jeremiah 31:31.
 - Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. Who did God promise this New Covenant with?
 - Read Jeremiah 31:35-40. Is it possible that God didn't mean Israel the NATION?
 - Read Zechariah 12:10-13:3 and 14:1-9. Notice that these events are yet future.
 - all these events are encompassed in the 'fullness of the gentiles' (Romans 11:25-26).
- here is a quote from: <http://www.gotquestions.org/times-of-the-Gentiles.html>
One theme of Romans 11 is that, when the Jewish people rejected Christ, they were temporarily cut off from the blessings of a relationship with God. As a result, the gospel was given to the Gentiles, and they gladly received it. This partial hardening of heart for Israel doesn't preclude individual Jews from being saved, but it prevents the nation from accepting Christ as Messiah until His plans are finished. When the time is right, God will restore the entire nation, and they will come to faith in Him once again, ending "the times of the Gentiles" ([Isaiah 17:7](#); [62:11-12](#); [Romans 11:26](#))

But they were not (Matthew 16:1-4)

- Rather than be jealous, we see a stark contrast in the Jewish non-belief.
 - Read John 1:9-13 for an interpretive lens for this section.

Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees (Matthew 16:5-12)

- Read Matthew 14:13-21. How could the disciples forget so fast?
- What is the leaven of the pharisees?
 - Read Luke 12:1 for some help.
- What does practical atheism look like?
 - Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-8 look like (focus on the lack of repentance rather than the sin)?

- A good definition of practical atheism is walking by sight not by faith.
- Read 2 Kings 6:15-17 and 2 Corinthians 5:1-7.
- what do these passages teach us regarding the leaven of the pharisees?

Main Idea:

Beware of practical atheism

Application:

Even if things seem to be difficult or even impossible we must walk by what we know to be true. do we do this though? Every day the leaven of practical atheism threatens to invade our life.

In what ways does this deadly leaven invade your own lives?

How do you respond to tragedy? to lack or to stress? How do you respond to difficulty or suffering or death? do you actually believe this stuff? will you trust Him even when it seems dark?

<http://atheism.about.com/od/Atheist-Dictionary/g/Definition-Practical-Atheist.htm>

<https://www.barna.org/barna-update/21-transformation/252-barna-survey-examines-changes-in-worldview-among-christians-over-the-past-13-years#.UuWhF3mtu2w>

<http://www.ligonier.org/blog/practical-atheism-vs-biblical-christianity/>

this one is short but a cool dramatic ending

<http://www.paracletepress.com/no-conviction.html>

how will you live this message out?