



When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. ⁶Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ⁷And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, "We brought no bread." ⁸But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread?... ¹¹How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ¹²Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. — Matthew 16:5-12

The use of bread as an illustration of gospel truth is common throughout the Bible, thereby rendering spiritual realities accessible to all cultures. One would think that France especially, famous for its bread and so attached to their *baguette*, would have an easier time grasping gospel truth, but... alas!

In this mundane episode of forgotten bread, Jesus takes advantage of the situation to teach his disciples an important lesson for their future ministry. He would show them that matters of doctrine and teaching are of greater importance than organizational or material issues. His concern is not over their poor meal planning, but rather the danger of their being influenced by *the teachings* of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

We in France, as elsewhere, would do well to heed his warning. The teaching of the Pharisees (*see Matthew 12, 15, 23*) is still rampant and can be found in all its salvation-by-works derivatives, most notable of which in France is Catholicism. Likewise, the teaching of the Sadducees (*see Acts 23:8*) is neither dead nor dormant and continues to find a voice in liberal modernism. These two influences working together have done enormous damage to churches everywhere. To those of us who have a tendency to worry about food and organization and programs and buildings, Jesus says "Watch! Beware!" Teaching and doctrine must always be of primary importance. Pray for France, its churches, its pastors and its Christians, that we would be faithful to the pure, unleavened teaching of Scripture. This would truly seem to be the need of the hour. ***



We are especially thankful for God's provision of an **apartment in Toulouse**. We moved across town, and in the move, we quadrupled our living space. We enjoy being close to church, close to the store, close to the airport, close to the freeways, close to the hospital, and close to the river. You might note our new address: *15 route de Bayonne, Apt 18 ; 31300 Toulouse, France*. Our departure from the studio provided an occasion to share the gospel with our neighbors, and we are thankful for new neighbors to whom we can witness. Throughout the move, we were amazed at the Lord's gracious and timely provision for all our needs — furniture, appliances, finances, etc.

We loved receiving a **visit from my mother**— she and Simeon hit it off great. Now he expects to be held all the time... Not only was she a big blessing to us, but also to many in our church, and she was able to participate in various visits, Bible studies, and church meetings, giving wise counsel and joyful encouragement to all. The whole visit seemed God-wrought and God-filled, replete with providential blessings.

As part of our Bible school, I will soon be teaching a **weekend seminar on Marriage, Family, and Gender Roles**. The subject itself, sadly unfamiliar and often rejected in France, is so vital to understanding God's mind and God's plan and God's will for individuals and for the church — we pray that Biblical teaching will have a profound impact on many. This will be followed by Easter evangelistic efforts. We are particularly rejoiced to see a renewed interest among the young people to participate in these efforts.

Confident that "*He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness*" and that "*you will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God,*" we remain your servants for Christ's sake in southern France,
Samuel and Rebecca

