

## Jesus and Legalism (Jesus vs. Herod and the Pharisees)

Mark 8:14-15

The Sermon on the Mount and judging.

*“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup>For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* —Matthew 7:1-2

*“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.”* —Matthew 7:6

**We cannot cast our lot with ways that are contrary to Jesus’ Way.**

*“Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”* —Mark 8:15b

The Pharisees and Herod represent opposing ways.

**Jesus challenges us to a third option--Jesus Way!**

### 1. Herod’s Way—**Worldly** Power.

Herod the Great died shortly after Jesus’ birth.

Herod Antipas (Herod’s son) ruled Galilee and Perea during Jesus’ lifetime.

Herodium—hill shaped like a truncated cone, 7 ½ miles SE of Bethlehem.

Herod preached Roman-Greek Culture

**Hasidim**—means pious, devout, devoted ones.

2 major cities in Israel completely missing from the New Testament.

- Sepphoris—3 miles north of Nazareth.
  
- Tiberius—built on the SW shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus ministered in the small towns: Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida.

### Two Architectual features

1. **Interconnected** houses.
2. **Synagogues**.

## 2. The Pharisee Way—religious rules.

The Hasidim party opposed Alexander the Great and Greek Culture 300-167 BC.  
 Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) battled Jewish resistance to Greek Culture for 30 years.  
 December 167 BC, Antiochus sacrificed a pig in the Jerusalem Temple.  
 Judas (the hammer) Maccabeus led a revolt between Greek and Roman rule.  
 During this time, the Pharisee party gained power.

Pharisee means “separated ones.”

### Good work:

The Pharisees retained Jewish culture and religious identity.

### Two negative things happened:

1. The accumulation of rules.  
 Jewish identity became more external than internal.  
 Being Jewish was more about obeying rules than being in love with God.
2. The Pharisees became obsessed with details.

### Jesus did not follow the intensity of the Pharisees nor the grandiosity of Herod.

Jesus focused on relationships—Pharisees on rules, Herod on Power.

Jesus’ language was stories and parables that invited you into relationship.

Pharisees used legalistic language. Herod used threat and control.

“*Do what I say.*”      Vs.      “*Come, follow me.*” “*Come and see.*”

### How do we follow Jesus' Way and not the way of Herod or the Pharisees?

By the way we pray. By the attitude of our prayers.

Mary’s prayer, “*I am the Lord's servant,*” Mary answered. “*May it be to me as you have said.*”  
 —Luke 1:38

Jesus’ Garden Prayer, “*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.*”  
 —Luke 22:42

**Relationship:** “I am the Lord’s servant.”—obedient servant or slave  
 “Father”—obedient son

**Request, action:** “May it be to me....”      “Your will be done.”