

**GOSPEL PEARLS**

## Small or great

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15\_10\_2021



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*"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. (Luke 12: 1)*

*In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, Jesus began to say to his disciples first, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore, whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the*

*light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops. I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.” (Luke 12: 1-7)*

Those who are hypocrites pretend to have beliefs, opinions, virtues, ideals, feelings, and emotions that they don't really have. Their pretending is often revealed by those who, in humbly following Jesus, really do have them. This is why false pious men are so angry with Jesus' disciples and persecute them. Let's trust in Jesus and the Holy Spirit, so as to not to fall in to the temptation of fear and anguish during times persecutions, whether small or great.