

## Setting the Table

### I) Jewish Groups During Apostolic Period

#### **The Pharisees-** p.64 (Hist. Christian Church) Sect. 1

- Represented traditional orthodoxy/ stiff formalism, legal self-righteousness and fanatic bigotry.
- Had most influence w/ people & the women.
- Controlled public worship
- Piety = orthodoxy
- Overloaded the scriptures (heavy burdens)
- (Nicodemus, Gamaliel, Paul)

#### **Sadducees-** p.65 (Hist. Christian Church) Sect. 2

- Smaller group than Pharisees
- Skeptical, rationalistic, worldly-minded.
- Similar to Epicureans or New Academy in Greek and Roman thought.
- Accepted written Scriptures (esp. Pentateuch)
- Rejected oral tradition
- Denied the resurrection of the body
- Denied immortality of the soul
- Denied existence of angels and spirits
- Denied all-ruling providence.
- Some were high-priests (Caiaphas was one of them)
- Pharisees v. Sadducees is similar to modern Orthodox Jews v. liberal Jews.

#### **Essenes**

- Not a party (like Pharisees and Sadducees)
- Mystic and ascetic brotherhood.
- Lived in monkish seclusion in villages and in the desert Engedi on the Dead Sea
- Only about 4,000 members.
- Allegorical interpretation of Old Testament
- Mixed other schools of thought and religion

- Wore white garments.
- rejected animals as food, bloody sacrifices, oaths, slavery, marriage (few exceptions)
- lived in simplicity in hopes of attaining a higher degree of holiness.
- Forerunners of Christian monasticism.
- Seldom or never came in contact with Christianity under Apostles. (except for a heresy in Colossae.)