

The Parable of the Leaven

“Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened” (Mt. 13:33).

I. Introductory Matters:

- A. A parable may be simply summarized as *“an earthly story with a spiritual meaning.”*
- B. Jesus likened the kingdom of heaven unto leaven (yeast). What is the import?

II. Some Dumb Conclusions:

A. *The parable is about Jesus and His redemptive work:*

- 1. The woman = Mary birthing Christ (the leaven). The flour = Christ’s holiness (**Lev. 2:1**).
- 2. The 3 measures of meal = **Col. 2:9**. Till the whole was leavened = **Jn. 19:30**.

B. *The parable per some premillennialists:*

- 1. The time of a coming physical kingdom is “hidden” in the mind of the godhead (the 3 measures of meal).
- 2. It will remain hidden until the signs of **Mt. 24:4ff** come to pass at some future point (the whole is leavened).

C. *The parable is about the evil influence of the Roman Catholic Church:*

- 1. The woman = The Roman Catholic Church The meal = the true church.
- 2. “Hiding” leaven = subtle methods used by the Catholic leaders to destroy the true church from within.

III. The Import of the Parable:

A. *The kingdom and its message would spread (just like leaven):*

- 1. The kingdom would not be unique to Israel. This was the plan of God – **Ax. 1:8; Gen. 12:1-3**.
- 2. The message would spread into all the world, just like leaven completely leavens dough – **Col. 1:5-6, 23**.

B. *As the kingdom and its message spread, it would have a positive influence on those who accepted it:*

- 1. Leaven makes the bread better! It has a positive influence on the dough.
- 2. So too does the message of the kingdom – when accepted and applied it makes things better!!!
- 3. In antiquity the kingdom and its message had a positive influence.
 - a. In Thessalonica – **1 Th. 1:1-10**. In Galatia – **Gal. 4:8-9**. In Colosse – **Col. 1:1-7 (Jn. 13:34-35)**.
 - b. On the Ethiopian Eunuch – **Ax. 8:26-39**. In Rome – **Rom. 1:7-8**. Etc.

IV. Conclusion:

- A. The parable is about the spread of the kingdom and the positive influence its message would have on the dough of humanity.
- B. Are you doing your part to be a positive part of the leavening process that is still occurring today?