

February 16th, 2020
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Standing on Kingdom Ground
Sermon #6 Title: Jezebel's Biscuit Dough
Sermon #6 Text: (Matthew 13:33)

"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.**"

This is perhaps one parable that could lay claim as having the most disputed interpretation. There are as many that speak positively of it, as there are that speak negatively of it.

- There are those who read this parable like this...
 - This is a picture of the church, spreading the gospel, until the whole world is finally influenced, and it shows how persistent and powerful the Word of God is in the world.
 - well know this...
 - the Church is supposed to spread the gospel... - yes.
 - the Word is persistent and powerful... yes.
 - Received or Rejected our influence does spread to the entire world...
- But this parable doesn't come within 3 time zones of that interpretation.

This morning we are going to look at it one symbol at a time.

Now to do that, get the picture that Jesus paints...

On one side of the ledger.... A woman hides leaven in three measures of meal.

On the other side of the ledger... Jesus says that's what the Kingdom of heaven is like.

- So our question is this...How is the Kingdom of Heaven like a woman hiding leaven in three measures of meal?

*note – This parable should become relatively easy for us to see, when we take these things one element at a time.

I. The Defined Symbol of the Grain– “the three measures of meal...”

*note – the fundamental key to understand this parable is to know about the three measures of meal.”

- In the parable something is happening to this grain...what is this “meal?”

- - It is “alyooron” – “ground flour”
- Flour that has been harvested, winnowed, dried, sifted, and ground... it is ready for use.
- But now here is the key to the whole parable... if we miss this, we miss the whole thing...
 - 3 measures of meal
 - “it is saton” in the Greek language
 - Here's the key....
- Each measure is 1 and ½ pecks. 12 dry U.S. Quarts, x 3 = 36 quarts of flour! – a little over a bushel!
- This would make one really big biscuit!

One Franciscan monk who's self-proclaimed specialty is bread wrote - "The amount of flour is the most surprising element of the parable, which is not entirely evident in most English translations. "Three measures" is the usual translation for the original Greek "tria sata" which is a little over a bushel of flour (1.125 bushels, to be precise). That's a ridiculously large amount of flour... Translating into kitchen measures, 1.125 bushels is 144 cups of flour. Presuming we used a common recipe for basic white bread that uses 5 ½ cups of flour, 144 cups is enough to make 26 batches of bread of two loaves each, giving us a total of 52 loaves, each weighing about a pound and a half. If we're frugal but not stingy, we can get 16 slices out of a loaf, yielding 832 slices, enough for 416 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches (we'd need 33 jars of jelly, and 64 of peanut butter). - Fr. Dominic Garramone AKA the Bread Monk

- now that being said when Jesus speaks of the "whole" being leavened, He is painting the picture of a "whole storage supply" of house hold wheat.

A. The Storage of Grain

1.) The 3 measures make up the whole... the whole what? – the whole or a full storage in a house.

2.) Some of the most common clay jars that served as household storage of grains, and wines, and oils, were long cylindrical pieces of pottery with two handles, one on each side, and would hold an average of 5 to 10 gallons, of whatever contents were put in them.

- one conversion tract I saw said this would be about 9 gallons of wheat.

*Note – So the picture Jesus draws attention to is not a loaf of bread, but rather a normal supply and storage of wheat.

B. The Usage of Grain

*note – Now the second thing to understand is the usage of the grain. – Here it is... to make bread! – Bread however, in the life of the Jews has some very clear distinctions.

1.) "Common use"

a.) daily baking, and common consumption

2.) "Holy use."

a.) this bread has a completely different recipe from common bread.

*Note – All throughout the Old Testament, there is a very clear distinction drawn between "common bread" and "holy bread."

Common Bread, was bread that could have yeast in it for loaves; make the flour last longer, go farther, fill the belly with less flour.

Holy Bread – Sacrificial Bread could have NO yeast in it. – We call that "Unleavened bread." –

- This is why one would never put "yeast" in the storage of flour, because there was two different types of bread to come from the same storage.

- Genesis 19:3 – Lot, worldly Lot, wouldn't feed the angels of God common bread, but only "unleavened" bread.

- "And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat."

- The Passover was to be observed with Unleavened Bread.

- The feast of Unleavened bread was instituted by God
- The Unleavened Shewbread was in the temple
- The Meal offering in the Sacrificial System was to be with “unleavened bread.”
- Even in New Testament times, the church observes the Lord Supper with “unleavened bread.”
- In the Baking of Bread, there was to be a clear distinction between that which was common, and that which was holy.- They never offered that which was Common to the Lord!
- There is always to be a distinction between the two...

C. The Image of Grain

- It follow the parable of the sower scattering,
- It follows the parable of Christian as wheat
- When brought to its intended purpose it is the “bread of life” – the Word of God.
- The “flour” ready to use... in the Kingdom is the Word of God, studied, prepared, and consumed.
- the end result is a loaf of bread... Bread pictures – the “body of the assembly.”

#1 – The Body of Christ -

1st Corinthians 10:17 – “For we being many are one bread.”

- The mature result of faith in someone’s life is their place in the Assembly!

#2 – The Book of Christ - - The Bible tells us in John chapter 1 – that Jesus is the “Word made flesh.” - What did Jesus say of Himself – “I am the bread of life.” – John 6:48

#3 – The Breath of Christ - Matthew 4:4 – “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

- John 6:63 – “The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.”
- All of these thing, the Body of Christ, the Book of Christ, and the Breath of Christ, are pictured by “Bread” which is the end result of the flour!
- And if all that be good, How good can it be?!

- But now here is the where the picture takes the sinister turn.

Where no one would/should put yeast into their whole supply of flour, making that which is holy common, and attempting to make that which is common holy, this woman mixes something to the entire supply!

- Now friend you cannot make a good omelet out of bad eggs.
- No one can make unleavened bread out of yeast flour!

II. The Defiling Symbol of Leaven

A. Subtle Influence

- 1.) Leaven – Zoomay – a boiling up, or a fermenting.
- 2.) it is yeast, and it is that unseen influence that makes flour puff up and grow.

*note – Technically – in bread, it is a fungus that converts sugars into carbon dioxide gas.

- Yeast once fermented, cannot be tasted. Only before it goes through its process can it be tasted. Otherwise, once it is done its full work cannot be tasted.

B. Sinful Influence –

1.) Every reference in the Bible pertaining to Leaven, identifies it as an “evil” and “sinful” influence.

a.) It changes the nature of something (it transforms sugar into something else.)

b.) Symbolically it transforms truth into something else, in the most subtle of ways.

*Note –What then is picture of the leaven in the flour? – It is the picture of an influence changing the nature of Word of God, Changing the nature of the Life from Christ, changing the makeup of the Bread of Truth!

- Jesus called leaven false Doctrine!

Matthew 16:11-12 – *“How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.”*

- What is False Doctrine?

- Doctrine – “Didasko” – Literally means, “instruction.”

- False instruction...

- The Pharisees was Legal Hypocrisy

- The Sadducees was Liberal Moralism

*Note – Now back to the picture... Jesus said, “false instruction will be mixed in to the full supply of flour.”

(This is the forewarning of the religious gumbo of denominations... this is what false doctrine does....it makes it so confusing, one would just rather give up

and either accept everything which is deadly, or reject everything, which is deadly.)

False instruction Permeates the Professed world of Christianity.

- Here’s the final attitude people have about it...

Since we can’t tell who is right, we conclude

- No one is right

- or Everyone is equal...

- There is a True, Clear, Word of God

There are false instructions:

- About Basic Church Life

- About Basic Family Life

- About Basic Spiritual and Prayer Life

- About Basic Financial Life

- Christianity is full of “False instructions” that deny healing, that hinder growth, that destroy lives...

- I’ve seen False instruction destroy entire churches.

When preachers, and teachers, give instruction that does not come from the Lord, it transforms the substance of the Word of God into something God does not give.

Now Jesus tells us how this leaven gets into the word.

III. The Diabolical Symbol of the Woman

*note – Throughout the Bible a woman is given toward two tracts of symbolism. One is Holy and Righteous, and the other is Unholy, and Unrighteous.

- The Church is pictured as a woman, the bride of Christ

- Israel is pictured as a woman – the wife of God
- False religion is pictured as a woman – an adulteress

*Note – The most complete description of this is in Revelation 17:1-5 – *“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”*

*Note – now back to the picture – we look at this woman and we see 3 things...

A. Her Malicious Intent – “to leaven all of it”

- 1.) To mix the yeast into all the flour!

*Note – The picture is that when one goes to the flour jar to make unleavened bread for sacrifice, it is disqualified from service and sacrifice.

- a.) To erase the distinction between that which is Holy and that which is Common.
- b.) to elevate the common

c.) to denigrate the holy

The leaven exalts the common, and brings down the holy

- The leaven makes the “normal” acceptable – and the high and holy, down to normal.
- This pictures the doctrine of Licentiousness – makes grace lawlessness.

- This pictures the creation of a spirit of irreverence.
 - Sometimes we sing a song, “Come just as you are to worship!” – Nothing could be more unbiblical!
 - You come just as you are to get saved!
 - You come sanctified and prepared to worship!
- This pictures the idea that the Holy things of God are no better than the common things of man! – No distinction.
 - It downgrades the scripture
 - It downgrades Worship
 - It downgrades Obedience, and purity, and faithfulness.
 - It downgrades the church
 - It is the full MIXING of the WORLD and the FLESH and the DEVIL, into the Word of God!

- Twisting and transforming it into every sentimental wish and emotional twinge we may have in order to make us feel good.

B. Her Malignant Extent – “took and hid”

- 1.) She “took” leaven...

The word means to “receive” or “obtain” as though one seized hold of it.

- 2.) She “hid” the leaven. Unseen, and unknown, and undetected, until it is too late.

*Note – It is out of the sight of knowing and watching eyes. It is picture as one trying to get away with something. – Deviance.

C. Her Manifested Agent – (False Christianity)

1.) “The Mother of Harlots”

a.) She has given birth to every False form of Christianity in the world.

She is in pulpits, and colleges, and universities, and classrooms, and book publishers. Permeating public Christianity with False Instruction, False Doctrine, so that men cannot or will not distinguish between the Common, and the Holy.

So that men will not distinguish between the Scriptural and the Sentimental. Between the Biblical and the Emotional. Between what they Know and what they Feel, between one Church house, and another Church house.

- It is intended to permeate the entire supply of flour!
- This is nothing more than Jezebel’s biscuit dough!

Conclusion:

- Now the Kingdom of Heaven – in its earthly manifestation, has been permeated with false doctrine! Untrue Instruction.

Why would Jesus tell us this?

- 1) So you and I would have no excuse or alibi to be lazy in our spiritual life.
 - Do you know how confusing it is out there?
 - Yes! – I told you it would be.
 - I don’t have time, or energy to be THAT discerning... - Then recalibrate your time, and reallocate your energy.

- 2) So we would know there is a difference between the Common and the Holy.

- that we might not just share our faith, - but keep it too.
- that we might recognize ALL truth matters, and effects every part of our Lives.

You cannot mix the Holy and the Common, and remain pure in your relationship with Christ!

