

## THE PARABLE OF THE YEAST

### MATTHEW 13:33

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Cornerstone Baptist Church

“A Kingdom Community”

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Matthew records, “Another parable He spoke to them.” (Matthew 13:33a). “The Parable of the Leaven or Yeast” is the fourth of eight parables recorded in Matthew 13. Three of the parables spoken by Jesus in Mathew 13 are also interpreted by Jesus. The Parable of the Yeast was not interpreted by Jesus.

The subject matter of each parable is, “the kingdom of heaven.” It was important to Jesus that His followers be as educated concerning the finer points of the Kingdom of God, just as the scribes were educated in the finer points of the Mosaic Law (Mt. 13:51-52). Jesus referred to the parables as, “the word of the kingdom” (Mt. 13:19a). Jesus called the meaning or interpretation of the parables, “the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 13:11). Each parable is designed to reveal a central and corresponding truth regarding the “kingdom of heaven.”

The central truth of “The Parable of the Sower” is simply this: Although the “word of the kingdom” would reach all the world, the majority who hear the message will reject it. It is a mystery why people would reject the glorious truths of the gospel of the Kingdom of God, but Jesus makes it clear that they will.

The central truth or mystery of the Kingdom unveiled to the disciples in “The Parable of the Sower” is this: Among those who hear the word of the kingdom and respond affirmatively, will be those who are authentic, and those who are imitation. The mystery of the kingdom unveiled in, “The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares” is the mixed composition and satanic opposition planted in “the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 13:19, 25-27). Good and evil will coexist in the “kingdom of heaven” until the close of human history.

The central truth or kingdom mystery in “The Parable of the Mustard Seed” is simply this: In spite of small beginnings, the Kingdom will grow externally and exponentially, and reach a diverse group of people. The diversity represented by the “birds that nest in its branches” is indeed a kingdom mystery unveiled.

The central truth or kingdom mystery unveiled in “The Parable of the Yeast” is simply this: Like leaven (yeast) in the dough, the kingdom is an invisible influence which spreads throughout the whole of society. “The Parable of the Mustard Tree” explains or predicts the outward or external growth of the kingdom, whereas “The Parable of the Leaven (yeast)” explains the inward growth of the kingdom. It explains the mystery of why the Kingdom is growing externally, because of what is happening internally. The Kingdom of God is a quiet revolution as represented by the leaven. The Kingdom of God is growing externally, because the Kingdom is growing internally.

- I. THE LEAVEN REPRESENTS THE KINGDOM
- II. THE WOMAN REPRESENTS THE CHURCH
- III. THE BREAD REPRESENTS THE WORD OF GOD

JESUS TAUGHT THAT KINGDOM EXPANSION WOULD INEVITABLY OCCUR BECAUSE OF THE PERVASIVE EFFECT IT HAS ON WHATEVER IT CONTACTS, LIKE YEAST. God has planted the church on earth to be to society the leavening agent that yeast is to dough. The dough does not change the yeast, but rather, the yeast changes the dough.

By using yeast as an illustration in this parable, Jesus taught that every area of life ought to be affected by the “kingdom of heaven.”

The point of the parable is that yeast, once added to the flour, permeates the entire batch of dough until every particle is affected. The yeast parable illustrates that obedience to Christ entails Christianizing or “kingdomizing” every area of life.

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What precisely did Jesus mean by the expression “kingdom of heaven”? Is it a synonym for the church? God’s people individually and corporately confess the name Jesus Christ as their savior. Together they constitute the church. The church is given gifts and powers enabling believers to obey God’s word cheerfully, to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom universally, and to further the rule of God effectively. The church then consists of Christians or Kingdom citizens who apply the teachings of Christ in every sphere of life. By doing this they promote the kingdom of God in which the rule of Christ is recognized. Every area of life affected by the teaching of Christ (the yeast) belongs to the kingdom.

Three pictures emanate from this text:

I. YEAST – Represents the Kingdom:

The nature of yeast is dynamic. Once the process of leavening begins, it is impossible to stop. Yeast works persistently—“Be steadfast...” Yeast works pervasively—“salt” and “light”; Yeast works irreversibly “wow to the man...”

II. A WOMAN – Represents the Church:

III. DOUGH – Represents the World:

A. Leaven usually represents evil.

B. The world is flat without Christ – YEAST MEETS DOUGH!

C. Matthew 5:16 – “Salt of the Earth” – YEAST MEETS DOUGH!

D. Love your enemies – YEAST MEETS DOUGH!

E. John 3:16 on signs at a football game – YEAST MEETS DOUGH!

Can you imagine THE WORLD WITHOUT Christmas?

Can you imagine THE WORLD WITHOUT THANKSGIVING?

Can you imagine THE WORLD WITHOUT EARTH?

Can you imagine THE WORLD WITHOUT THE HOLY BIBLE?

Can you imagine THE WORLD WITHOUT THE CHURCH?

Can you imagine THE WORLD WITHOUT NAT TURNER, RICHARD ALLEN, WILLIAM SEYMOUR, AND MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.?