

Leaven Study Guide - Matthew 13:33

Read together:

Matt. 13:33 (RSV)

"He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.""

1. What is leaven? What does leaven do? Do you know of any Scriptures that talk about leaven?

2. Discuss the elements of this parable:

a. Three measures of flour.

The Jewish audience probably related this to the Meal Offering because of the amount of flour referenced. The Meal Offering in the Bible is associated with fellowship.

Read John 6:35, Rev. 3:20 and 1 Cor. 1:9 to discuss the concept of bread and fellowship.

b. The woman.

The word, "hid" means "enkrypto". What is wrong with hiding leaven in dough?

c. The leaven.

i. Discuss together the leaven of the Pharisees, Sadducees and Herodians.

-Luke 12:1- Reliance on self for righteousness

-Matt. 16:6&11- Reliance on self for life

-Mark 8:15- Reliance on self for success

ii. Discuss the leaven in the Church.

-1 Cor. 5:6, 8 & 11- unconfessed sin

-Gal. 5:1 & 9- legalism

4. Leaven permeates and puffs up. It moves from Judaism, through secularism and into the Church. In a hidden manner it makes us proud and self-reliant. Read

together 1 John 1:6-7 and discuss how gospel communities can be powerful places of transformation.

Application

"Let us celebrate with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." 1 Cor. 5:8
Pray for trusted relationships full of grace and truth.

Leaven

Message Slides - Matthew 13:33

Matt. 13:33 (RSV)

"He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened." "

Picture of Leaven & Bubbles on same slide

A. The Meal offering!

>each on mouse click<

B. The Woman

C. Leaven

>each on mouse click<

1. Leaven of Pharisees, Sadducees and Herodians

Pharisees- Luke 12:1- Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy!**

Reliance on self for righteousness

Sadducees- Matt. 16:6&11- Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

Reliance on self for life

Herodians- Mark 8:15- Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.

Reliance on self for success

2. Leaven in the Church

1 Cor. 5:6 & 11

"Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?"

... But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people."

>on mouse click>

1 Cor. 5:8b

"Let us celebrate ...with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

☐ Gal. 5:1 & 9

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

..."A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." "

D. Conclusion

1. The Beauty of Gospel Communities

1 John 1:6-7

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

2. The Importance of Intentionality.