

A LITTLE LEAVEN

1 CORINTHIANS 5:6 & MATTHEW 13:33

Text: Matthew 13:33

Matthew 13:33

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.

Introduction:

In this parable speaks with His disciples and with all of us who read His Word about what is happening in our world under the banner of Christianity.

Leaven is spoken of seventeen times in the New Testament. In each case the leaven represents evil or evil influence.

How does this relate to the family? I believe that there are some very valuable lessons that we can learn from this parable as we consider having a family that honors the Lord.

1. DECEIT – HID IN THREE MEASURES OF MEAL (MATT 13:33)

We get the idea of things being done in a secretive manner.

Her behavior is secretive and deceptive.

This certainly doesn't sound like something that a godly person would do, be deceitful and secretive.

She hid the evil in the meal.

2. DESCRIPTION

When the Lord began to talk about leaven, he warned us of:

A. The Leaven of the Pharisees. (Matt. 16:6, Luke 12:1)

Matthew 16:6

⁶Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

What is the leaven of the Pharisees? We find the answer to that in Luke 12.

Luke 12:1

¹In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

- The leaven of the Pharisees is hypocrisy.
- The hypocrite pretends to be something that he or she is not.
- A hypocrite is an actor.

Then the Lord warns them of the:

B. The Leaven of the Sadducees (Matt 16:6)

Matthew 16:6

⁶ Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

- These Sadducees were the leading religious group of that day.
- These Sadducees were not grounded or settled doctrinally.

Matthew 22:23-24

²³ The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, ²⁴ Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

- These Sadducees were religious liberals.

Then the Lord warned of a third leaven:

C. The Leaven of Herod (Mark 8:15)

Mark 8:15

¹⁵ And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and *of* the leaven of Herod.

- The leaven of Herod is worldliness. The Herodians were very worldly.
- Sadly today the world isn't becoming more Christian; Christians are becoming more worldly.

We see other leaven described as well

1 Corinthians 5:8

⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

3. DANGER – TILL THE WHOLE WAS LEAVENED (MATT 13:33)

The danger is a little leaven will leaven the whole.

Luke 13:20-21

²⁰ And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

1 Corinthians 5:6

⁶ Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Galatians 5:9

⁹ A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

A single sin indulged in, or allowed in our lives, in the home or in the church, would act like leaven - it would pervade and corrupt the whole church, unless it was removed.

What starts out as something small (a little leaven) ends up affecting and influencing all that's around.

- A little hypocrisy
- A little error in doctrine
- A little worldliness
- A little malice
- A little wickedness

In the individual which affects the home, and then in the home which affects the church.

Close:

We never know the full extent of what allowing leaven into our lives will be, but for certain the outcome will not be good.