

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables

Parable of the leaven and meal

Matthew 13:33

*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

**Philippians 4:6-7**

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – Prophecy

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.

**Note:** This parable has baffled Christian scholarship who make insufficient effort to allow Scripture to explain Scripture.

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – The Leaven and Meal

## Matthew 13:33

First, how does Christian scholarship interpret the Parable of the leaven and meal:

- Matthew Henry's Commentary (page 1272):  
“Ministers are employed in leavening places, in leavening souls, with the gospel...yet strong and irresistibly...”

“The apostles, by their preaching, hid a handful of leaven in the great mass of mankind...”

“It (i.e.: leaven) was thus effectual...faith, repentance, holiness and love are wrought in the soul by it.”

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – The Leaven and Meal

## Matthew 13:33

- Jamieson Fausset and Brown Commentary:  
“The woman here represents the Church as the instrument of depositing the leaven...”  
“It yields more real satisfaction to see...the all penetrating and assimilating quality of the Gospel, by virtue of which it will yet mould all institutions and tribes of men, and exhibit over the whole earth one kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.”  
(NT section, page 44)

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – The Leaven and Meal

## Matthew 13:33 – (Protestant Reformation)

- Dominion theology: Biblical Christianity will rule all areas of society, personal and corporate.
- Christian reconstructionism: society will be reconstructed by the Law of God as preached in the gospel and the Great Commission.

There are those who believe that it is the duty of Christians to create a worldwide kingdom patterned after the Mosaic Law.

They believe that Christ will not return to earth until such a kingdom has been established.

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – The Leaven and Meal

## Matthew 13:33 – (Charismatic Protestant)

- Kingdom Now: God will, through Christians, re-establish control over the world's social institutions, governments, laws will all be brought under God's authority.

They believe, since Christians are indwelt by the Spirit of God, the Christian has God's ability to speak things into existence and bring about the Kingdom age.

Then Christ can return to earth.

The rapture will be an emotional experience of excitement as being "caught up" at Christ's return.

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – The Leaven and Meal

## Matthew 13:33

- MacArthur Study Bible:

“Some interpreters...make the leaven some evil influence inside the kingdom. But that twists Jesus actual words and violates the context in which Jesus is repeatedly describing that kingdom itself as the pervading influence.” (page 1418)

**Note:** another version of Dominion theology

**Note:** All three past statements are the faulty results of attempts to “interpret” Scripture, rather than the use of Scripture to understand Scripture.

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – The Leaven and Meal

## Matthew 13:33

- J Vernon McGee (vol 4, page 77):

“There are those who interpret the leaven as the gospel, and they ought to know better!”

“Nowhere is leaven used as a principle of good; it is always a principle of evil. Paul spoke of the leaven of malice and wickedness (1Cor 5:8). Symbolism in Scripture doesn’t contradict itself...leaven is not the gospel...”

“The parable teaches that intrusion of wrong doctrine into the church will finally lead to total apostasy.”

**Note:** actually, it is corruption into His Word!

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – The Leaven and Meal

## Matthew 13:33

- G. Williams Student's Commentary (page 711):  
“Leaven is invariably presented in Scripture as a symbol of evil, and frequently a woman as an agent of idolatry.”  
“The meal was pure.”  
“The leaven introduced an element into it which produced corruption.”  
“Christendom today is wholly corrupted; for it is impossible to find anywhere in the world anything which professes to be the kingdom of God and which is pure, either in membership, conduct or doctrine.”

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – Prophecy

## 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.

- Leaven: Definion: (Oxford) Substance (yeast) added to dough to produce fermentation. (Strong's) yeast – swelling by fermentation.

**Note:** fermentation by leaven is stopped when subjected to the heat of an oven!

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – Prophecy

Leaven:

(First mention)

Exodus 12:15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – Prophecy

Leaven:

Exodus 13:3 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this *place*: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – Prophecy

Leaven:

Matthew 16:6, 12 Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and 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.

**Q:** What was the leaven of the Pharisees?

**R:** Luke 12:1 ...he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

**Note:** “hypocrisy” Oxford: pretense, feign, pretend, assuming a false appearance of goodness.

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – Prophecy

Paul, writing to the called saints:

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened.

For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us

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.

**Note:** Pharisees leaven = hypocrisy

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – Prophecy

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**Q:** What is “meal”?

**R:** Matthew 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – Prophecy

## 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.

**Q:** What is “meal”? (continued)

**R:** Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*

**Note:** meal is made from ground-up seed (i.e.: grains of wheat).

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – Prophecy

Matthew 13:33

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**Q:** Who is “a woman”?

**R:** Hosea 3:1 Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of *her* friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.

**Note:** “who look to other gods”: idolatry!

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Matthew 13:33

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**Q:** Who “interprets” similar to Matthew Henry?

**R:**

- The Roman Catholic church
- The Orthodox church
- The Apostolic church
- The Protestant church

# Kingdom of Heaven Parables – Prophecy

Matthew 13:33

**Q:** Who “interprets” similar to McGee and Williams?

**R:** The Dispensational Believer: one who does NOT “interpret”, but compares Scripture with Scripture to understand what has been written.

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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.

**Concluding thought:** This parable tells the reader that corruption is, by another, purposefully hid in the Word given to the children of the Kingdom (not the church, the BoC); that corruption is continuing to grow to the point that whole will be/is corrupted.

The corruption will be stopped with fire.

*Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

1Thessalonians 5:11

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