


**To Speak in Parables**  
 Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus

***Just a Spoonful of Leaven...***  
 The Parable of the Woman and the Leaven

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 CrossMarks.com



Leaven and the Woman	
Matthew 13:33	Luke 13:20-21


Leaven and the Woman		
Matthew 13:33	Luke 13:20-21	G.Thomas 96

Leaven and the Woman	
Matthew 13:33	Luke 13:20-21
ζύμη  έζυμώθη	ζύμη  έζυμώθη

Leaven and the Woman	
Matthew 13:33	Luke 13:20-21
leaven  leavened	leaven  leavened

- Leaven**
- Exodus 12: No yeast at Passover
  - Gal 5.9: A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough.
  - 1 Cor 5.8: Therefore, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
  - Matthew 16.6: "Watch out, and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

## Leaven



- That leaven in the ancient world was a symbol for moral corruption has long been recognized. ...
- The physical characteristics of leaven support the metaphor for corrupting. Leaven is made by taking a piece of bread and storing it in a damp, dark place until mold forms. The bread rots and decays, unlike modern yeast, which is domesticated.
- ... In Israel there is an equation that leaven is the unholy everyday, and unleaven the holy, the sacred, the feast. [p. 324]

BB Scott, *Hear Then...*

## Leaven and the Woman

Matthew 13:33	
leaven hid leavened	yeast mixed worked all through the dough

## Leaven and the Woman

Matthew 13:33	Luke 13:20-21
woman	woman

## Leaven and the Woman Who Hides It

Matthew 13:33	Luke 13:20-21
ἐνέκρυπεν	[ἐν]έκρυπεν

## Leaven and the Woman Who Hides It

Matthew 13:33	
leaven hid leavened	yeast mixed worked all through the dough

*Note how most translations 'domesticate' the parable*

## Leaven and the Woman Who Hides It in How Much Flour?

Matthew 13:33	Luke 13:20-21
three measures of flour	three measures of flour

### Three Measures of Wheat

- σάτα τρία
  - = 3 Measures of wheat
  - = 4.5 pecks
  - = 1.125 bushels
  - = 144 cups
  - = ~ 45 pounds
  - >>> about 50 or so large loaves of bread
  - >>> feed more than 100 people
- Genesis 18.6 ?

### Leaven and the Mustard Seed

Luke 13:18-19	Luke 13:20-21

### Leaven and the Woman

Optimistic Reading?

- A little makes a lot
- Kingdom no longer hidden (Dodd)
- Ultimate success

### Leaven and the Woman

Negative Reading?

<http://www.themoorings.org/prophecy/apostasy/apos2.html>

Far from supporting an optimism about the future of Christianity, the Parable of the Leaven supports a frank pessimism. The church will not conquer the world. Rather, the evil world system will conquer the church. Enemies of Christ will lodge corruptions in the church that will progressively diffuse throughout the whole lump. The word "whole" quite pointedly informs us that no part of the church will escape these corruptions.

Also see: [www.acns.com/~mm9n/Kingdom/kingdom5.htm](http://www.acns.com/~mm9n/Kingdom/kingdom5.htm)

[http://www.pbministries.org/books/pink/Parables/parables\\_04.htm](http://www.pbministries.org/books/pink/Parables/parables_04.htm)

Let us now turn, briefly, to the positive side, and give what we believe is the true interpretation. As already stated, the "three measures of meal" stand for Christ as the food of His people: Christ as presented in the written Word, therefore, the doctrine of Christ. The "woman" refers, primarily, to the Papacy, and generally, to all corrupters of God's truth. Romanism has many "daughters." It is most significant that the leading false cults in Christendom were originated by *women*. Modern Spiritualism was started in Boston, U.S.A., in 1848 by the Fox sisters. Seventh Day Adventism was founded by Mrs. White. Christian Science was organized by Mrs. Eddy. Theosophy was devised by Madame Blavatsky, and is now engineered by Mrs. Besant.

The "leaven" symbolizes the corrupting of God's truth by the introduction of evil doctrine—compare Matthew 16:12. The unadulterated truth of God is too heavy for the natural man: the sovereignty of God, the helplessness of man, the awfulness of sin, the totality of human depravity, the eternal punishment of the wicked, are indigestible to the carnal mind. Therefore, Rome and her "daughters" have introduced the lightening "leaven," so as to make, what they hand out, more palatable to their dupes.

And thus has history repeated itself. Of old God complained to Israel, "Ye offer *polluted* bread upon Mine altar" (Mal. 1:7). So today priestcraft and clericalism have corrupted the bread of God.

It is to be noted that the "three measures of meal" were *not removed*, nor was something else substituted in their place. Instead, a foreign element was mingled with it, an element which has slowly and gradually corrupted it. In 2 Thessalonians 2:4 the apostle Paul declared, "The mystery of iniquity does *already work*." The leaven had started to act even then, and, as our Savior declared, it would work till "the whole was leavened." How nearly this is the case today the majority of our readers are sadly aware. There are but few places to which an hungry child of God can now go and receive pure Bread. But thank God there are still a few such places. While the Holy Spirit remains on earth amongst the saints, God's truth *will be* proclaimed. While *He* is here, there is a *hindering* cause, preventing the "whole" from being "leavened." But at the Rapture the Hinderer will be "taken out of the way" (2 Thess. 2:7), and *then* the "whole" will be completely leavened. The "salt" will be removed, and nothing will be left to stay universal corruption.

## Leaven and the Woman and...

*An optimistic reading?*

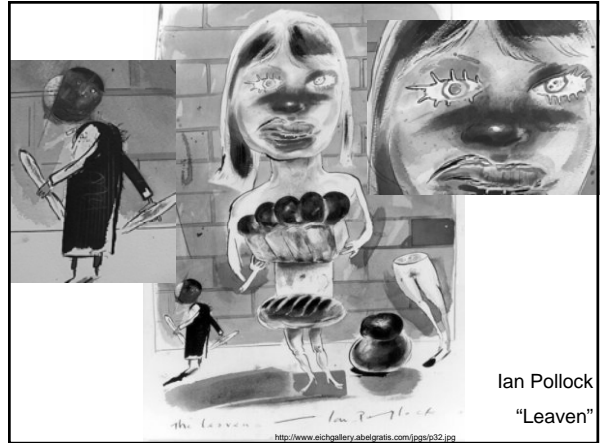
The Dominion of God is like iodine, which a hiker, who was very thirsty, upon coming to a mountain stream but fearing to drink the water, having filled a large container, put only a little of it in, and soon the water was completely safe to drink.

## Leaven and the Woman and...

*A pessimistic reading?*

The Dominion of God is similar to this:

A group of people had a large container of water they shared. The leader spit into it, and thereafter no one would drink from it except those who were truly thirsty.



Ian Pollock  
"Leaven"

## Leaven and the Woman

The Scandal of the Gospel and  
the Dominion of God

- Leaven
  - Woman
  - Hidden
- >>> Abundance

