

Letter 444
A Little Leavening Goes A Long Way
OR
Yeast Infection Is She
 2016-02-20

Dear Dan,

While it does seem to be a minority viewpoint within some theological circles, I have heard it said over the years that the leavening Jesus talks about in His Kingdom parable found in Matthew 13:33 is describing how the Kingdom of Heaven enters into the world and, like leaven permeating a whole loaf of bread, will expand and fill up the whole world. Most recently I heard this interpretation come from (CB42) of (U24).

But, according to the teachings of Dr. Chuck Missler, leavening in Scripture is always symbolic of sin. In many of his Bible Study lectures, Dr. Missler points out that in this passage, Jesus is speaking to his disciples, who were of the most Jewish persuasion, both ethnically and theologically.

This means that upon hearing the parable, Jesus' disciples would automatically understand that yeast, or leaven, was referring to sin, since that is what leaven was understood to represent in the Jewish theological mindset. That is why in Luke 12:1-3 hypocrisy is compared to leaven. And we know for fact-certain that Scripture defines all hypocrisy to be sin.

What I found interesting is that the parable prior to this one, in Matthew 33:31-32, about the mustard bush, has been used in the same way by the same theological camp represented by (CB42).

The parable of the mustard-bush-turned-tree is used with the same "spin" as the yeast. The mustard-bush-turned-tree is, to those who so translate, the Kingdom of Heaven after it becomes large enough to fill the whole earth, with, according to the parable, branches strong enough to support the nests of the "birds of the air".

The really big problem with this interpretation is the apparent lack of understanding of just who the "birds of the air" really is.

In Luke 8:4-8, "the Parable of the Sower", Jesus introduces us to "birds of the air". Then in Luke 8:12 He explains that "the birds" actually work for Satan. Here is the exact quote:

*"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then **the devil** comes and takes away (using the birds of the air previously mentioned) the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved".*

Luke 8:11-12

So, if the bush-becoming-a-tree is such a good thing, why does Jesus showcase this supposed Tree of the Kingdom as a nesting abode for demons? That would indeed be a strange Kingdom. According to the “yeast is a good thing” people, Jesus first says that we are to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom, with the driving away of demons as number one on His short list of Kingdom signs (see Mark 16:17-18). Then He says that His Kingdom will get so big that it becomes a breeding ground for even more demons.

Is this so the new baby Christians can learn how to drive away new baby demons? I don't think so.

Here is the more likely scenario.

The bush-turned-tree is what happens to the Kingdom when “after-market products” find their way into the hearts of Believers. An embryonic version of this, and what I have come to see as the first documented vector for “aftermarket intrusion” into the Church is Ananias and Sapphira. In Acts 5:3 Peter asked Ananias point blank:

“WHY HAS SATAN FILLED YOUR HEART TO LIE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?”

Ananias had no answer before he went to sleep. He and Sapphira are apparently saved, because earlier in the passage he and his wife were counted among the Believers (see Acts 4:32). Yet they were susceptible to receiving “after-market” parts from a fraudulent purveyor of “bogus knock-offs”, thus causing their relationship with the Holy Spirit to run off the narrow path and bringing about their fatal head-on collision with the Lord's desire for the Love of the Truth in His Body.

A more likely interpretation is this:

1) that the mustard-bush-turned-tree is the teaching of the doctrine of the faith that has become infused and engorged with erroneous traditions of men, thereby allowing **doctrines of demons** to enter the Kingdom;

2) birds of the air are actually **demons**;

and

3) yeast is the foreign substance of sin put into three measures of meal by **a woman**.

Three measures of (fine) meal are first found in Genesis 18:6, and part of the ingredients for the refreshment that Abraham asked Sarah to cook for The Lord and two of his angels. The number “three” of course, is the revealed number of the Godhead. Sarah cooked the fine meal into bread-cakes, which speaks of Christ, the Bread of Life.

But, when the singular doctrine of the Gospel of the Kingdom is polluted with yeast, it becomes puffed up, and violates Scripture were it says:

*“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy;
love does not parade itself, **is not puffed up;**”*
1 Corinthians 13:4

In my own cursory study of Church History of the past two thousand years, I see being demonstrated the truth of the Kingdom Parables where Jesus declares there would be “trouble in Paradise”.

But, there are also prophecies that speak of a better Day for the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. I think that Day is almost here. See Letter 261 Volume 5-14.

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus