



**INTRODUCTION:** The common misinterpretation of this parable is that the woman is the church, the leaven is the gospel and the three measures of meal is the world; and the church is to put the gospel into the world until all of the world knows Jesus Christ. This interpretation of the parable is wrong for several reasons:

- 1) The Bible never teaches that the whole world is going to be transformed with the gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:3-14).
- 2) Experience does not teach this interpretation either.
- 3) The previous parables do not align with this false interpretation.

*The gospel was never given to save civilization from wreckage; the gospel was given to save men from the wreckage of civilization.*

#### I. THE BREAD THAT IS BAKED (MATTHEW 13:33)

1. Angels visited Abraham in the plains of Mamre and bread was made:

*Genesis 18:6, "And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth."*

2. Gideon baked bread for angels.

*Judges 6:19, "And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it."*

3. In the Levitical Law, Jews made an offering of 3 measures to the Lord.

*Numbers 15:9, "Then shall he bring with a bullock a meat offering of three tenth deals of flour mingled with half an hin of oil."*

*Leviticus 2:5, "And if thy oblation be a meat offering baken in a pan, it shall be of fine flour unleavened, mingled with oil."*

4. A parable is given of a man who had a surprise guest and did not have food to offer, so he went to a neighbor and asks for 3 loaves of bread.

*Luke 11:13, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"*

5. In the Levitical Law, the unleavened flour was mingled with oil, which over and over again in the Bible oil speaks of the Holy Spirit of God.
6. The breaking of unleavened bread is an emblem of fellowship with God, from the Passover Feast right on down to the Lord's Supper.

*I Corinthians 10:17, "For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."*

7. In the parable of the tares, the believers are pictured as wheat. That is what makes up bread. We, as a church, are God's wheat; one loaf.

#### I. THE LEAVEN THAT IS LATENT (MATTHEW 13:33)

*Exodus 12:8, "And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it."*

*I Corinthians 5:6-8, "6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 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: 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."*

Unleavened = sincerity & truth / Leavened = malice and wickedness

#### B. THE LEGALISTIC LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES (MATTHEW 16:11)

1. Pharisees pretend to be gatekeepers, but they are really are roadblocks (Matthew 23:13).
2. Pharisees pretend to be intercessors, but they are really extortionists (Matthew 23:14).
3. Pharisees pretend to be converters, but they are really corrupters (15).
4. Pharisees pretend to be guides, but they are blind (Matthew 23:16-17).
5. Pharisees pretend to be givers, but they are takers (Matthew 23:23-24).
6. Pharisees pretend to be cleansed, but they are filthy (23:25-28).
7. Pharisees pretend to be mourners, but they are murderers (23:29-32).

#### C. THE LIBERAL LEAVEN OF THE SADDUCEES (MATT. 16:11; 22:23-29)

*Acts 23:8, "For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both."*

#### D. THE LICENTIOUS LEAVEN OF HEROD (MARK 8:15)

The leaven of Herod was license. Herod was a pleasure-mad king.

#### III. THE WOMAN THAT IS WICKED (MATTHEW 13:33)

This woman represents man's religion. Christianity is not religion.

- A. A DELIBERATE ACT
- B. A DECEITFUL ACT
- C. A DEVILISH ACT

*Revelation 2:20, "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols."*