



Church at Home for Abridge

26th July 2020
Matthew 13: 31-33,
44-52

**Further resources
for worship and
reflection**

The Parable of the Leaven. (Read Matt 13:31-33, 44-52)

The Parable of the Leaven has a twist in it as well. Leaven was often used as a metaphor for sin. One could use the action of leaven as a warning to not let little sins go unchecked, as they will become the gateway to greater sins. The Jews at Passover would carefully search for and remove all leaven in the house before the Feast of Unleavened Bread. They were directly commanded by God to do so in the Book of Exodus. But leaven was useful as well when taken in its normal sense. It made bread tastier and fluffy. The Jews certainly enjoyed their leavened bread for most of the year. Unleavened bread was dry and tough. The purpose of it was to remind Israel that life was once hard. At the Passover, they remembered the bondage of their ancestors, and it was the grace of God who had delivered them from Egyptian slavery. The leavened bread reminded them that they had to prepare to leave quickly on Passover Night. There was no time for the bread to rise. The bitter herbs reminded them of the bitterness of slavery as well. The rest of the year, the leavened bread was received with thanksgiving and joy. Life could be harsh, so the taste of warm bread was a treat.

Jesus uses leaven in a positive way in this parable. It mirrors the mustard seed in that yeast is tiny. Compared to three measures of bread, it was a small ingredient. Usually a little dough was left unbaked so the yeast culture could grow. A piece of this old batch of dough was added to the new dough. The bread would be thoroughly mixed so the yeast could do its work. Soon the entire batch of dough rose and was ready to be baked. Like the mustard seed, one can see that great things would come from small beginnings. What is added is that a little of the old would be mixed in with the new to produce the final result. It would be one lump of Jew and Gentile together. If one follows the Parable of the Wheat and Tares as well as the dragnet, the Kingdom of Heaven would come into its fullness at the end of the age.

Chapter 13

The Parable of the Yeast (Leaven), 13:33-35

The Problem: How will this kingdom grow?

The Central Truth: The kingdom will grow from an internal dynamic, not from external organization.

People who profess to belong to God will grow in numbers without being stopped. The progress of the kingdom cannot be stopped.