

# Hell Team...

**Matthew 13:33- Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."**

- In revelation we have 7 literal churches, 7 letters written = the evolution of the church through time. Culminates into Laodacian Church. This church is spewed into great tribulation and you can find the culmination in revelation 17-18.
- In Matthew 13 there are 7 lessons in parables. It also is a progression culminating in the separation of wheat and tares

Matthew 13:33 Jesus makes an interesting statement - let's look closely at it...

- I have never really grasped this scripture - it has puzzled me because "leaven" represent sin in the scripture.
- Notice "THE WOMAN"
- Women in scripture many times represent religious systems.

In Revelation 12, a woman is symbolic of the nation of Israel, and in Revelation 17 and 18 she represents the false system of Babylon. In Isaiah 47, a woman is again symbolic of Babylon (whether the nation or the system of Babylon). In Galations 4:21-31, Paul uses "women" to symbolize the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. In Ezekiel 16, [God](#) uses a woman to symbolize Israel: "Aholah" is the kingdom of Israel and "Aholibah" is the kingdom of Judah.

What can we understand from this? Every time a woman is used as a symbol, the common denominator is the idea of a system of beliefs and practices that influence other people. A church or religion is a system of beliefs and practices. A nation has a character and way of doing things. [This world](#) as a whole has a system of beliefs and practices that go contrary to God. To find out what kind of system is being referred to, we must look at the context to see how the system works, how it reacts, and what it does.

What are the characteristics of this woman in the parable?

1. **she took leaven** - This is the common word used to mean "to come into possession of." It is a common Greek word, but it can also have the connotation of "to seize," "to take by force." The text does not say which connotation is correct here.
2. **The next verb is "hid" (Greek, *enkrupto*), an interesting word** - It means "to hide in" or "to mix." *Enkrupto* is used only this way here. *Enkrupto* is the same word from which we get our word "encrypt." A general tells his lieutenant, "Encrypt this message and take it to the colonel at the front line." What does the lieutenant do when he encrypts it? He mixes up the letters according to a code, and only a person with the key to the encryption knows what the message is saying.

The root word for *enkrupto* is *krupto*, which means "to cover, to conceal, to keep secret." Its major connotation is "to be sneaky" or "to be secret, covert, or surreptitious." **It seems from the usage of these words that this woman is up to no good whatsoever. First, she takes something, then she hides it. She is a bad lady, a bad system.**

3. **She hides the leaven "in three measures of meal."** That Jesus uses the very phrase "three measures of meal" is quite interesting—and it is a key, because this told His Jewish audience something that He did not have to explain, as they were familiar with it. It was a normal practice and meant something to them.

It has been suggested that He used this amount because it is the average quantity of meal a housewife would employ in her daily baking. This suggestion is pretty ridiculous when we consider that three measures of meal equal about two gallons of meal (7.3 liters)! That seems like a lot of bread each day. An average loaf of bread contains about three cups of flour. Two gallons of meal, which is the equivalent of about eight quarts or thirty-two cups, would make nearly eleven loaves! Even the most bread-gorging family on this earth would not eat eleven loaves each day. Normally, one loaf would suffice for one person for a day, if he ate nothing else.

### **Jesus, then, is probably speaking of a special occasion.**

- Genesis 18 contains the first biblical usage of "three measures of meal." This is the occasion when the One who became [Jesus Christ](#) and two angels came to Abraham, and he made them a meal. Jesus tells him in verse 5, "Go ahead and make a meal." "So Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, 'Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal'" ([Genesis 18:6](#)).
- What was "three measures of meal"? There is a principle of Bible study (the law of first mention) that says, "The first time a thing—a word, a phrase—is mentioned in the Bible influences how it should be interpreted throughout." Here, "three measures of meal" is used in the context of a fellowship meal—giving hospitality, in this case, to God—so it has a spiritual connotation.
- The law of grain offerings in [Numbers 15:8-9](#) provides some instruction. We need to learn a little bit about Israelite dry measures. The smallest unit of measure is an *omer*. Three *omers* equal one about one *seah*. This *seah* is what is translated "measure" in [Matthew 13:33](#), except it is in Greek *saton*. There is also the *ephah*, which is ten *omers*. Three *seahs* made up of about three *omers* equal one *ephah*.
- These verses show that the smallest [meal offering](#) that could be given was one *seah*, one-third of an *ephah*. It had to be of fine flour. Abraham gave three *seahs*, three measures. He went above and beyond what was required for the meal offering.
- [Judges 6:18-19](#) shows Gideon's offering to the Lord. How much did he give? Gideon gave an *ephah*, three measures of meal.
- [1 Samuel 1:24](#) tells of Hannah's thank offering. How much? Hannah's offering was one *ephah*, three measures of meal.

- In [Ezekiel 45:24](#) and 46:5, 7, 11 are the offerings given at the Feast during the Millennium. How much is given? An *ephah*, three measures of meal, is given.

**With these examples in mind, we can understand that Christ's use of this phrase would have made His Jewish audience think immediately of the meal offering in Leviticus 2, and they would have been absolutely shocked out of their shoes to find that someone had the audacity, the blasphemy, to put leaven in a meal offering! That was not kosher! It simply was not done!**

A person who did so could expect to be zapped by the next lightning bolt out of heaven. It was [sin](#). What, then, would the normal Jew have thought? He would have understood immediately that the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) would be subverted. Something good had been corrupted.

**What was Jesus referring to?**

**Matthew 16:5-5 - Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."**

**Mark 8:15 - Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."**

## **The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees**

### **Pharisees**

- **The Religious Spirit**
- Pharisees - common everyday
- The Spirit of Religion
- Law + Oral Traditions

### **Sadducees**

- Elite / wealthy / academia
- Party of the High priest
- Torah only
- Denied immortality of the soul / bodily resurrection / supernatural / miraculous / angels
- The vast body of postbiblical Jewish legal traditions—meant next to nothing. By contrast, the Pharisees revered the Torah but further claimed that oral tradition was part and parcel of Mosaic Law.
- Sadducees were very harsh with judgment - no mercy

## The Leaven of Herod

- The Political Spirit

- Hated religious until it's agenda needed to partner with it for a certain end. At that time, the political spirit and religious spirit could find common ground and work together, i.e. the illegal and unethical arrest and murder of John the Baptist and Jesus.

### Examples:

- Babel - Genesis 11
- Babylon - Daniel and Ezekiel
- Jesus time
- Babylon - Revelation 17-18

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

Charles Dickens pinned these memorable words in 1859 – A historical novel that chronicles the backdrop to the French Revolution culmination in the infamous Reign of Terror.

In the Bible there is really the “Tale of Two Cities” - Babylon and Jerusalem

- Babylon is mentioned 260 times
- Jerusalem is mentioned more than 800 times.

Babylon is described as a vile prostitute

Jerusalem is described as a Bride

In this study, I want to deal with something that is prophetic. In other words, it looks forward to the future, but I personally am convinced that the future, as envisaged is not far away – it is upon us. In fact, many evidences of what this study foreshows are already clearly visible within professing Christendom.

First of all, we'll read about what the King James version calls "the great whore" that I prefer to call in more modern English "harlot" or even "prostitute" or "adulteress." And then we'll read about the true bride of Christ.

**Revelation 17:1–5: - And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: and upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

Side by side with that, let us contrast the picture of the Bride...

**Revelation 19:7–8:- Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.**

**Revelation 21:9 - And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, [and it is somewhat probable, I think, it was the same angel] and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.**

So we have two completely contrasted things. The harlot and the bride.

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Now, turning from Revelation, I want to go back to the opening book of the Bible, Genesis, and I am sure many of you are aware that almost everything that is opened in Genesis is concluded in Revelation. There is a remarkable correspondence between the two books. And I want to read the well-known passage about the two sacrificial offerings brought by the two sons of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel. This is the first picture of what I would call "religion" in the Bible and, as with almost everything, when it's presented for the first time in Scripture, the great basic truths are there and all subsequent references simply unfold the truths contained in the first reference.

In many cases, the first time that any important concept is referred to in the Scripture, it is the seed out of which all subsequent revelation and teaching will unfold.

And this I believe is true in this picture of the two types of religion—Abel’s religion and Cain’s religion. As I view human history, from then until now, I believe there have never been any other types of religion known to the human race but these two types and every person who has religion has either the religion of Cain or the religion of Abel. There’s nothing else.

**Genesis 4:3-8 - And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD has respect unto Abel and to his offering: but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wrath? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.**

Conclusion:

**2 Timothy 2:19 (NIV) - Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."**

- Are you truly his or have you based your salvation on religion?