

## Leaven sermon Part 1

Notes; the Parable of the Woman and the Leaven Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026 Bob Metcalf

**Text: Mt 13:33 NKJV** *“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.”*

**NLT** *“Jesus also used this illustration: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.”*

**The Moral of the Parable:** The pure meal of the kingdom of heaven in its present form has been entirely influenced and permeated by teaching by the false church.

**Pro 25:2** *“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.”*

### Three Questions:

**Which** part of the parable is the Kingdom of Heaven like?

**Who** is this woman?

**What** does the parable really teach?

### The Kingdom of Heaven:

There are three major symbols in this parable.

We need to correctly interpret them in order to arrive at the meaning of the parable.

### Three Symbols:

1. Woman
2. Meal/Flour
3. Three Measures of Meal/Flour

**The question to be answered is: Who is this woman?**

**1. The Woman:** Most all Bible expositors recognize the fact that a woman in Scripture is a type of a church. The Scriptures confirm this truth.

- **The Lord God was married to Israel and Judah under the Old Covenant times.**
- Both houses of Israel are likened to two women who played the harlot. Israel was given a bill of divorce.

**Jer 3:6-10** *“The LORD said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: “Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played **the harlot**.<sup>7</sup> And I said, after she had done all these things, ‘Return to Me.’ But she did not return. And her treacherous sister **Judah** saw it.<sup>8</sup> Then I saw that for all the*

causes for which backsliding **Israel** had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister **Judah** did not fear, but went and played **the harlot** also. <sup>9</sup> So it came to pass, through her **casual harlotry**, that she defiled the land and **committed adultery** with stones and trees. <sup>10</sup> And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah has not turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense," says the LORD."

- **The False Church is called Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and abominations of the earth.**

**Rev 17:3-6** <sup>3</sup>“So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw **a woman** sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup> **The woman** was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. <sup>5</sup> And on her forehead a name was written:

*MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, **THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS**  
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

- **The True Church, and marriage of Christ to His Church is liked also in a great mystery**

**Eph 5:25-32** “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> **that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**

<sup>28</sup> So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. <sup>30</sup> For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

<sup>32</sup> **This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**”

**Two Women, Two Churches here.....The Kingdom of God is like.....**

**Next question; what is the Meal/Flour?**

**2. The Meal/Flour:** In the previous 3 parables were all “seed” parables and each brought a different aspect of truth about the seed of the Kingdom

**Jn 12 :24 NLT**” I tell you the truth, unless a **kernel/Heart** of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.”

**Meal/Flour** in Scripture **ALWAYS** speaks of good, wholesome and healthy food. It does not represent evil in Scripture.

**Numbers 15:21** “Of the first of your ground meal you shall give to the LORD a heave offering throughout your generations.”

**It points to Christ being God’s fine flour, perfect in nature and being.**

- Christ as the bread of life **Jn 6:48** ““I am the bread of life.”
- Christ is the meal offering accepted by God the Father
- The Church is also spoken of as bread and called to be unleavened bread  
**1 Cor 10:17a** “For we, though many, are one bread and one body”

So we see the meal here speaks to us or points to the bread or food of God, the Divine meal.

Next question; what are the Three Measures of Meal/Flour?

**3. Three Measures of Meal:** *There is a reason for three.*

Three is the number of the godhead, Father, Son, H.S.

Three is the number of a perfect and complete testimony and full witness.

There are three that bear record in heaven

**1 John 5:7** “For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one”

**Key:** First Mention Principle.

The first time “*three measures of meal*” is mentioned in Scripture is in **Gen 18**

**Gen 18:1-6 NKJV** “Then **the LORD appeared** to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, **three men** were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, <sup>3</sup> and said, “**My Lord**, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. <sup>4</sup> Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant.”

*They said, “Do as you have said.”*

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “**Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes.**”

**Vs 6 NLT** “So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to Sarah, “**Hurry! Get three large measures of your best flour, knead it into dough, and bake some bread.**”

Many theologians refer to the appearances of God in these passages, and others like them, as “theophany’s” (Greek: *theos* = “God” + *phaino* = “appear”

In the light of these Scriptures pertaining to the number three and the measures of meal, the three measures of meal can be understood as the meal of God's Word.

In other words, the three measures of meal may speak of the fullness of the Godhead, the fullness of Divine revelation as in the Word of God.

**Three speaks of God! Meal speaks of the Word of God!**

God in instructing Israel in regards to the sacrifices to Him said this.

**Lev 2:11** ***"No grain offering which you bring to the LORD shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn **no leaven** nor any honey in any offering to the LORD made by fire."***

**Take notice**, here of our parable, Jesus speaks of the Three Measures of Meal **that are leavened** by the woman!

***"The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."***

**Is the leaven here symbolic of good or evil?** *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like Leaven"* oh, it must be good then! ..... Or is it?

A **paradox** is a logically self-contradictory statement, proposition, or scenario that defies intuition, often revealing errors in reasoning or pointing to deeper, hidden truths.

Originating from Greek terms for "contrary to opinion," these paradoxes exist across logic, mathematics, and philosophy, demanding critical re-examination of foundational assumptions

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### **FALSE CULTS TEACH**

- 1.** The woman is the church
- 2.** The three measures of meal represent the three divisions of the human race, from the three sons of Noah.
- 3.** The leaven is the gospel and kingdom of God, and *"the whole being leavened"* signifies the salvation and reconciliation of the whole human race. Leaven ultimately influencing the whole world for god and good

***This is a heresy that brings people into deception!***

**-First mention-Progressive mention-Comparative mention-Complete mention**

of this word, leaven in the Scriptures. (To complete our puzzle)

**Leaven in the O.T.**

- The *Feast of Passover*, all leaven was forbidden and was to be put away out of their houses. Any who ate leavened bread would be cut off from Israel **Ex 12:15-20 34-39**
- In the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*, all leaven was forbidden. Israel ate unleavened bread for seven days. **Ex 12:15-20 Dt 16:3-8**
- In the consecration of the priest to office, unleavened cakes were to be offered to the Lord **Ex 29:2,33 Lev 8:2,26**  
**BUT!**
- In the *Feast of Pentecost*, the two wave-loaves of fine flour were to be baked WITH leaven. **WHY?**
- The word leaven is used at least 38 times in the Bible and unleavened is used 60 times in total.