

“The Greatest Stories Ever Told”

“and He spake many things unto them in parables...” Matthew 13:3

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Oct 13th AM

The parables of Mt. 13 provide insight into the Kingdom of God. The first involves an Introduction as to how people actually become part of the Kingdom of God. (*Through receptive hearts*)

The next three (tares, mustard seed, leaven) reveals how Satan seeks to **infiltrate** God’s work (once it’s begun) in order to produce Contamination (*1 Cor 5:6; Gal 5:9*) and Confusion. (*1 Cor 14:33*)

While the Tares & Mustard seed illustrates the false outward expansion / influence of the church, the leaven illustrates the inward development of false doctrine growing in the church and the resulting false living it produces.

Mt 13:33 *“Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.”*

Leaven is often used as a symbol of evil throughout the Bible.

- It was banned from the Jewish homes during Passover (Ex. 12:15-19; 13:7).
- It was excluded from the sacrifices (Ex. 23:18; Lev. 23:11).
- Jesus used leaven to picture: hypocrisy (Luke 12:1), false teaching (Mt. 16:6-12), and worldly compromise *“the leaven of Herod”* (Mark 8:14).
- Paul used leaven to picture carnality in the church (1 Cor. 5:6-8) as well as false doctrine (Gal. 5:9).

Webster’s defines leaven as something that permeates, modifies or transforms something.

Sin is like leaven (yeast) in that: It (often) grows quietly and unnoticed; It corrupts, infecting everything it touches (1 Cor 5:6); and It "puffs up" (1 Cor. 4:18-19; 5:2; 8:1).

Trying to interpret this as the spread of the Gospel, would violate the meaning of this important symbol. As “yeast” permeates bread, so false doctrine would spread throughout Christ’s church.

1. Doctrine Defined.

A. Webster’s defines doctrine as: *“a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a Church, political party, or other group.”*

- 1) Doctrine matters because doctrine defines belief.
- 2) It’s critical that our faith is built on the solid foundation of God’s truths. (Mt. 7:24-29)

B. The word “Doctrine” found 78 x in the Bible

- 1) 6 x in OT (Dt 32:2; Job 11:4; Ps 4:2; Is. 28:9; 29:24; Jer. 10:8)

- a) Usually Leq’ah: meaning received instruction
- b) Once (Jer. 10:8) it’s mûsâr’: meaning chastisement

- 2) 72x in NT. Mostly Didachē’: meaning Instruction.

1st Ref. Mt 7:28-29 *“when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”*

2. Doctrine Infiltrated & Deteriorated.

A. God’s truths are eternal and life giving.

- 1) 1st Biblical Reference Dt 32:1-2 *“My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, as the showers upon the grass:”*

God’s truths help us grow (2 Tim. 3:16,17) If they’re received and applied. (See Ps. 19)

B. Satan seeks to contaminate God's word to appeal to human reasoning or appetites. (Ro. 1:21-28)

- 1) Dt 32 (1st reference to Doctrine) reveals this. vs 5 *"They have corrupted themselves, their spot (stain) is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse (false) and crooked generation."*
- 2) Last O.T. reference validates this truth. Jer. 10:8-10 *"But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock (idol) is a doctrine of vanities... (Emptiness). They are all the cunning work of men."*
- 3) The last Biblical Reference reveals False Doctrine permeating the churches. *Rev. 2:14-24*
- 4) The Bible repeatedly warns of this. 2 Tim. 4:2-4; 1 Tim 4:1; *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"*

Conclusion: "Doctrine" is mentioned 78 times in the Bible (6 O.T., 72 N.T.) and 17 times in 3 Pastoral Epistles.

Just as Satan infiltrated the Garden of Eden casting doubt on God's Words, (Gen. 3)
So he seeks to infiltrate God's church, changing the meaning and power of God's truth.
(2 Cor 11:14) *"Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light..."*

Application: How do we resist doctrinal contamination?

1. Commitment to God's Truth.

- 1 Tim 4:13, 15, 16 *"give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.... Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."*
- 1 Tim 4:16 *"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."*
- 2 Tim. 2:15 *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

2. Watchfulness (of the presence or effect of leaven.)

- **Morally** 1 Cor 5:6 *"Know ye not that a little leaven, leaveneth the whole lump?"*
- **Doctrinally (Spiritually)** Galatians 5:7-9 *"who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."*
- a) **We need watchful preachers.** 2 Tim. 4:1-5 *"Preach the word... reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (See 1 Tim. 5:17)
*For the time will come that they will not endure sound doctrine... but after their own lusts (what they value/want {see Phil. 3:17-20}) shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
But watch thou in all things, Endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist make full proof of thy ministry."**
- b) **Watchful People {Berean believers in Acts 17:11}** *"These were more noble than ... in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."*

Are you more committed to God's Truth than you are to Societies political correctness or your own personal preferences?

1 Cor 5:6-8 *"Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?
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:
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."*