

Two Leavened Loaves

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Adding a leavening agent like yeast to dough increases its size if certain conditions like heat and moisture are met. In God's word, this action of leavening is used metaphorically to describe either negative or positive growth within people. For example, there is a leaven with the potential to increase and cause harm if it is allowed to grow unchecked,

Your glorying (boasting/bragging; self-adulation) **is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven** (potential sin; cf. Gen. 4:6-7) **leavens the whole lump?** ⁷

Therefore purge (clean) **out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump,** since you truly are unleavened (through repentance of sin). For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast (of Unleavened Bread; per Lev. 23:4-8), not with old leaven (old/sinful way of living), nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (1Cor. 5:6-8; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

So "old leaven" represents the old/sinful way of living. In contrast, the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth represents a new and different way of living that benefits everyone exposed to it. This is why Jesus Christ associated the action of his Father's Holy Spirit with leaven that eventually permeates the entire family, or kingdom of God, resulting in positive consequences,

And again he (Christ) said, "To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened." (Lk. 13:20-21; Ed. note in parenthesis).

In contrast there is a leaven, associated with the spirit of mankind's mortal enemy, which leads to negative consequences,

*And you (repentant sinners) He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course (Gr. aion, aeon; or ancient being) of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air** (Satan), **the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience** (Eph. 2:1-2; cf. Rev. 12:9; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

*But even if our gospel (good news) is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds **the god of this age** (Satan) has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (his Father), should shine on them (2Cor. 4:3-4; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

So, there are "two spirits" with a powerful effect on mankind. One is "God's Holy Spirit", while the other is "the spirit that works in the sons of disobedience".

Those who seek to serve and obey Almighty God will repent of their sins and receive His Spirit (Acts 5:32b). And, if they continue to produce "fruits" associated with the action of His Holy Spirit (cf. Gal. 5:22-23), they will eventually inherit everlasting life at the first resurrection,

But if the Spirit of Him (Almighty God) who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit which dwells in you (Rom. 8:11; cf. Heb. 5:9; Rev. 20:6; Ed. note in parenthesis).

In contrast, those who submit to Satan's carnal-minded values will inherit "the wages of sin", which is everlasting death (cf. Rom. 6:23a),

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness? (Rom. 6:16).

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21).

Going back to the woman mentioned in Luke 13:20-21, she worked with leaven and flour in the hope of producing something of value to other people. But who does this woman represent?

*For we (God's true church) are members of his (Christ's) body,³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."³² **This is a great mystery, but I (Paul) speak concerning***

Christ and the church (Eph. 5:30-32; Ed. notes in parentheses).

For I am jealous for you (members of the Corinthian church of God) with godly jealousy. For I have **betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ** (2Cor. 11:2; Ed. note in parenthesis).

*Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb** (of God; Christ) **has come, and his wife** (God's true church) **has made herself ready.**⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints (Rev. 19:7-8; cf. Ps. 119:172b; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

So, the woman in Luke 13:20-21 represents members of God's true church who have the Holy Spirit of God, which they utilize for the benefit of others. When given the opportunity, they will feed God's truth to those who are hungry for it. This is why Christ compared his Father's word to bread,

But he answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (the Father).'" (Mt. 4:4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Therefore, correctly explaining God's truth can be compared to feeding hungry people with bread,

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled (Mt. 5:6; cf. Ps. 119:172).

Because Christ is our teacher (cf. Mt. 23:8), he is the embodiment of this bread that people

need to eat, or imbibe, in order to understand God's truth, repent of sin, and eventually inherit everlasting life,

For the bread of God (the Father) is he (Christ) who comes down from heaven and gives life (everlasting) to the world (Jn. 6:33; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In contrast, the majority of people in this present world system prefer to eat, and absorb, the value system of Satan; just as Adam and Eve did and they died as a result,

*And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every **tree (metaphor describing "spirit-beings")** of the garden you may freely eat (absorb values from);¹⁷ but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (representing Satan) you shall not eat (absorb values from), for in the day that you eat of it (Satan's values become yours, and) you shall surely die (because Satan's values lead to sin) (Gen. 2:16-17; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

Christ emphasized to his disciples that they were expected to feed his Father's truth to those with an appetite for it,

*He (Christ) said to him (Peter) the third time, "Simon son of Jonah (John), do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." **Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."** (Jn. 21:17; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added)*

In a more obscure reference to feeding God's truth, Christ was preparing his disciples to teach many people when he said the following,

*But Jesus said to them (his disciples), "They (five thousand people) do not need to go away (hungry). (Instead), **you give them something to eat** (Mt. 14:16; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

According to the book of Hebrews, every true servant of God the Father should be preparing to teach others, either in this lifetime or following Christ's return,

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles (Scriptures) of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food (Heb. 5:12; Ed. note in parenthesis).

As mentioned previously, consuming God's word is synonymous with eating the bread of life,

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life (everlasting). He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me (including Christ's teachings) shall never thirst (Jn. 6:35; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Therefore, correctly teaching God's word will be an integral part of the re-education process beginning at Christ's return to rule this planet,

And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers.²¹ Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left (Isa. 30:20-21).

Despite the fact that God has sent teachers throughout man's history, most people have not

responded by repenting of their sins (Jer. 35:15 cf. 1Cor. 1:26-29). However, this will not always be the case. In the future, those who teach God's truth will do so without interference from Satan because he will be bound for a thousand years (cf. Rev. 20:1-4). These teachers are pictured metaphorically by two loaves of bread that have been leavened by God's Holy Spirit (cf. Lev. 23:15-22), and they will feed God's truth to all the nations,

*For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and **bread to the eater**,¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void (empty, without fruit), but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it (Isa. 55:10-11; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:14-15).

In conclusion, the woman who worked with leaven and flour represents God's true church working with His Spirit and growing in spiritual understanding (cf. 2Pet. 3:18). The end goal of this process is to produce bread that can be used to feed/ teach God's truth to many people (Eccl. 11:1).

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