

The Parable of the Leaven

Lesson + 9 (COL 95-102; Mt. 13:33; Lv. 23:17; Mt. 16:6, 11-12; Ex. 12:19; 13:7; I Cor. 5:6-8)

In this lesson we will study what Jesus had to say about leaven. We will find that Jesus employed this symbol in several different ways.

- 1) In order for the individual to grow spiritually, the Holy Spirit (symbolized by leaven) must be implanted in the heart.
- 2) In order for the church to grow spiritually it must have within it the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Sin (symbolized by leaven) must be expelled from the life.

FIRST APPLICATION: THE INTERNAL WORK OF GRACE IN THE HEART

1. According to COL 95, what led Jesus to tell the parable of the leaven? _____

2. How much power does a person have to transform himself? “But man cannot transform himself by the exercise of his _____. . . . The leaven—something wholly from _____ must be put into the meal before the desired _____ can be wrought in it.” (COL 96)
3. How can a sinner’s life be truly transformed? “As the leaven, when mingled with the meal works from _____ outward, so it is by the renewing of the _____ that the grace of God works to transform the life.” (COL 97)
4. Can we change our lives by merely correcting bad habits? “There are many who try to _____ by correcting this or that bad habit, and they hope in this way to become Christians, but they are beginning in the _____ place. Our first work is with the _____.” (COL 97)
5. What is the difference between a “profession of faith” and the “possession of truth”? “The mere _____ of truth is not enough. We may possess this, but the tenor of our thoughts must be changed. The _____ must be converted and _____,” (COL 97)
6. Is mere obligation a correct motivation for obedience to God? “The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of _____ merely—because he is _____ to do so—will never enter into the _____ of obedience. He does not _____ obey. . . . True obedience is the _____ of a principle within.” (COL 97)

7. What is the essence of all true righteousness? “The essence of all righteousness is _____ to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is _____— because right doing is _____ to God.” (COL 97-98)
8. Jesus once spoke to a great religious leader who was outwardly righteous but had not been inwardly renewed. Who was this leader and why did Jesus speak to him as He did? (John 3).

_____.
9. What similarity is there between the symbol of “wind” in John 3 and the symbol of “leaven” in Mt. 13:33? Jesus said: “The wind bloweth where it _____, and thou hearest the _____ thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth.” (John 3:8). “The leaven hidden in the flour works _____ to bring the whole mass under its leavening process: so the leaven of truth works secretly, _____, steadily to transform the soul.” (COL 98)
10. Why do the lives of Christians so frequently reveal the same evil traits of character as the worldlings? “The reason is that they are not _____. They have not hidden the leaven of truth in the _____.” (COL 99)
11. What is the great agency in the transformation of character? “The _____ are the great agency in the transformation of character. . . . If studied and _____ the word of God works in the heart, subduing every _____ attribute.” (COL 100)
12. What relationship exists between the Holy Spirit and the Word of God? “The _____ or the Spirit is the _____ of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)
13. How did the Psalmist explain the transforming power of the Word of God? “Thy word have I hid in mine _____ that I might not _____ against Thee.” (Psalm 119:11).
14. What did Jesus say is the secret of the sanctified life? “Sanctify them through thy _____: Thy _____ is truth.” (John 17:17)
15. According to Paul, how can the church reach the condition of not having a spot, wrinkle or any such thing? God cleanses and sanctifies the church with the _____ of the water by the _____.” (Ephesians 5:26)
16. How does the world look upon a person who has been transformed by the internal work of the Holy Spirit and why is the world not able to understand such a man? “The world regards as a _____ the man who is imbued with this _____. . . . Such a man the world cannot _____; for he is keeping in view eternal realities” (COL 101)
17. What will be the evidence that the work of grace has transformed the heart? “The _____ is changed. Christ abiding in the heart _____ out in the faces of

those who love Him and keep His commandments. Truth is written there. The _____ peace of heaven is revealed. There is expressed a _____ gentleness, a _____ than human love.” (COL 102)

SECOND APPLICATION: THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

1. In the Parable of the Leaven Jesus said: “The _____ of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and _____ in three measures of _____, till the whole [loaf] was leavened.” (Mt. 13:33)
2. In I Corinthians 10:17 the apostle Paul compared the church to a loaf of _____.
3. On the Day of Pentecost, the church was filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). As a result, three _____ persons were added to the church that day. A few days later five _____ persons were added to the church.

Note: The secret of church growth is not found in gimmicks but rather in the presence of the Holy Spirit. The church is not to be grown by using external methods which appeal to the carnal heart. The church is to grow from inside out through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

4. On the Feast of Pentecost, the bread was to be made with _____ (Leviticus 23:17)

Note: As we shall see shortly, on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the leaven was a symbol of sin. On the Day of Pentecost, however, the leaven was a symbol of church growth.

THIRD APPLICATION: THE NEED TO EXPEL SIN FROM THE LIFE

1. In Matthew 6:6, 11-12 Jesus warned His disciples to “beware of the _____ of the Pharisees and of the _____.”
2. In Exodus 12:15, 19; 13:7 we are informed that Israel had to expel every vestige of _____ from the house before the Feast of _____.
3. According to the apostle Paul, What was symbolized by the leaven? “Therefore let us keep the feast not with _____ leaven, neither with the old leaven of _____ and _____; but with the _____ bread of _____ and truth.” (I Corinthians 5:8)

Note: It is well known that leavened bread spoils much quicker than unleavened bread. By the process of fermentation leavened bread becomes moldy and spoils. So it is with the leaven of sin. When it is present in the life, it corrupts and spoils spiritually.

4. The unleavened bread of the Passover represented the broken body of Jesus. We are told concerning Jesus: “in Him [Jesus] is no _____.” (I John 3:5)

5. What two things happened with the manna when it was saved from one day for next? “It bred _____ and _____.” (Exodus 16:20)

Note: Remarkably, these very two things take place when a human body begins to decompose.

6. When Friday’s manna was saved for Sabbath, what happened? “And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not _____, neither was there any _____ therein.” (Exodus 16:24)

7. Who was represented by the manna which came from heaven? Jesus said: “I am the _____ of life. Your fathers did eat _____ in the wilderness and are _____. This is the bread which cometh down from _____, that a man may eat thereof, and not _____.” (John 6:48-50)

8. On which day of the week did Jesus die? “And that day was the _____ and the Sabbath drew on.” (Lk. 23:54)

9. What marvelous messianic prophecy pointed forward to the rest of Jesus in the tomb? “Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: My _____ also shall rest in _____. For thou wilt not leave my soul [me] in hell [sheol: “the **grave**”], neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see _____.” (Psalm 16:9-10)

10. When Jesus rested in the tomb on the Sabbath day, did His body experience corruption? According to Peter on the Day of Pentecost, when Jesus rested in the tomb, God did not allow His body to see _____.” (Acts 2:27; see also, Acts 13:34-37).

Note: It becomes very clear that Exodus 16 was a messianic prophecy. As the manna picked up on Friday did not spoil on the Sabbath, so Jesus died on Friday but his body saw no corruption on the Sabbath. And the reason why the body of Jesus did not corrupt is because in Him there was no leaven of sin!!

11. After asking the Galatians who kept them from obeying the truth (Galatians 5:7), the apostle Paul warned them: “A little _____ leaveneth the whole _____.” (Galatians 5:9).

Note: Here the apostle Paul compares leaven a lump of dough with disobedience in the life of the Galatians. Cherished sin not only corrupts the person individually but also the church!

12. What is the secret of a victorious Christian life? “The _____ that I speak unto you, they are _____ and they are _____.” (John 6:63).