

Matthew 13:33
The Kingdom of Heaven is Like Leaven
July 28, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro - Parables aren't bedtime stories to put you to sleep, they're intended to be trumpet blasts to wake you up.

Every parable Jesus shared is a call to action.

All eight of the parables in Matthew 13 deal with the kingdom of heaven.

- **The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field**
- **The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed**
- **The kingdom of heaven is like leaven**
- **The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field**

The terms Kingdom of God and kingdom of heaven are used interchangeably.

Matthew 13 - "The kingdom of *heaven* is like a mustard seed."

Luke 13 - "The kingdom of *God* is like a mustard seed."

The kingdom of heaven is a spiritual kingdom.

Luke 17:21 - "The kingdom of God is *within you*."

The kingdom of God is within believers.

One day, the kingdom of heaven will be both spiritual and physical.

Revelation 11:15 - Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: "The kingdom of the world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever."

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v.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."

Leaven doesn't always represent sin in the Bible.

Leviticus 23:17, 20 - From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour, *baked with leaven*, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the LORD... *They are a sacred offering to the LORD.*

Remember the parable of the wheat and the tares?

- **the sons of the kingdom and the sons of the wicked one grow side by side until the end of the age.**
- ***But which one ultimately fills the world?***

v.41 - The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they'll gather *out of His kingdom* all things that offend.

v.43 - Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun *in the kingdom* of their Father.

2 Peter 3:13 - In keeping with His promise we're looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, *filled with God's righteousness.*

1. Leaven works from the inside out.

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Matthew 23:25-26 - "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you're full of greed and self-**indulgence**... First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean."

Proverbs 4:23 - Above all else, guard your heart, for *everything you do* flows from it.

Psalm 139 - LORD, You've searched me and known me... You know my thoughts even when I'm far away... You're aware of all my ways... Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You're there; if I make my bed in the depths, You're there... Even in darkness I can't hide from You... Search me, O God, and know my heart! Test me and know my thoughts! See if there's any wicked way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.

Psalm 51:10 - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 19:14 - May the words of my mouth and the *meditation of my heart* be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

2. Leaven goes unnoticed.

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3. Leaven changes everything it touches.

Acts 1:8 - "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Joseph in the OT was a coffee bean.

- **His brothers hated him and sold him into slavery**
- **The Ishmaelites who bought him, took him to Egypt and sold him to an Egyptian official--Potiphar**
- **While in Potiphar's house, he was falsely accused of a crime and thrown in prison.**
- **In prison he helped a man who promised to help him--but the man forgot him.**

Genesis 39:3-5 - Potiphar *saw that the Lord was with Joseph...* so Potiphar put him in charge of his household and entrusted him with everything he owned. From the time that he made Joseph overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake.

Three things about Joseph that helped him be an agent of change.

- 1. Joseph viewed every circumstance as an opportunity.**
- 2. Joseph was patient yet persistent.**
- 3. Joseph built strong relationships based on trust.**

**It was battered and scarred
And the auctioneer felt it was hardly worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin but he held it up with a smile
It sure ain't much but it's all we got left I guess we ought to sell it to
Who'll start the bid on this old violin?
Just one more and we'll be through**

**And then he cried one give me one dollar
Who'll make it two? Only two dollars? Who'll make it three?
Three dollars twice now that's a good price
Now who's gonna bid for me?**

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**Raise up your hand. Don't wait any longer. The auctions about to end
Who's got four? Just one dollar more to bid on this old violin?**

**Well the air was hot and the people stood around as the sun was setting low
From the back of the crowd a gray haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow
He wiped the dust from the old violin then he tightened up the strings
Then he played out a melody pure and sweet, sweeter than the Angels sing
And then the music stopped and the auctioneer
With a voice that was quiet and low he said now what am I bid
For this old violin and he held it up with a bow**

**And then he cried out one give me one thousand
Who'll make it two only two thousand who'll make it three
Three thousand twice you know that's a good price
Common who's gonna to bid for me?
And the people cried out what made the change we don't understand
Then the auctioneer stopped and he said with a smile
It was the touch of the Master's hand**

**You know there's many a man with his life out of tune
Battered and scarred with sin and he's auctioned cheap
To a thankless world much like that old violin
But then the Master comes
And the foolish crowd, they never understand
The worth of a soul and the change that is wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand**

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