

Kingdom Parables - Leaven

Mat 13:33-35 ESV He told them another parable. "The **kingdom of heaven** is like leaven that a woman took and **hid** in three measures of flour, **till it was all leavened.**" All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. 35 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

- Leaven = sin, doctrine, but also used in positive ways (Pentecost, peace & wave offerings w/ leaven)
- **Small amount** affects (influence...change...transform) **a large amount** of dough - until all is leavened
- 3 measures ~60 lbs (60 loaves of bread) - enough for 270 pizzas! Big vision!

Jesus' parable reminds them of Abraham Gen 18 --- First time three measures of meal is mentioned

- Gen 18:1-10 ESV [*The LORD appeared to Abraham*] - "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. 4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, 5 **while I bring a morsel of bread**, So they said, "Do as you have said." 6 And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! **Three seahs [kjv measures] of fine flour!** Knead it, and make cakes."9 They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." 10 The LORD said, **"I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son."**

A significant day (1)birth of Isaac immanent) (2)destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah)

The LORD finally set a time for the son that would come...(promised 25 years earlier)

- GENESIS 12 - ABRAHAM AGE 75 -- Gen 12:2-3 ESV And I will make of you a **great nation**, and **I will bless you** and make your name great, so that **you will be a blessing**. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, ...and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**
- GENESIS 15 **Still no child my servant to be heir**-- Gen 15:3-6 -- the LORD said "your very own son shall be your heir..." "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able..." "So shall your offspring be." **He believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.**
- GENESIS 16 - ABRAHAM AGE 86 - NO CHILD -- Sarah pushes Abraham to Hagar (Ishmael born)
- GENESIS 17 - ABRAHAM AGE 99 - The LORD appeared and once more and called Abraham to walk before me and be blameless that I may make my covenant between me and you and may MULTIPLY you greatly.....He called Abraham (99 yrs old) to be circumcised.....Sarah will have a child (she had been barren to this point (she is 89 yrs old) - she shall become nations.....Shall a 100 yr old man and a 90 yr old woman bear a child?.....**Let it be Ishmael...No Sarah will bear you a son and call him Isaac**
- BACK TO GENESIS 18 **"I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son."**

A Significant Day -- The LORD had come down to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah

Gen 18:17-18 ESV The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, 18 seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and **all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?**

Gen 18:23-24 ESV Then Abraham drew near and said, "**Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?** 24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it?

- What about 45? Suppose there are 40 righteous? Don't be angry -- suppose 30 are found there?
- Suppose 20 are found there - for the sake of 20 I will not destroy it -
- **Suppose ten are found there - for the sake of 10 I will not destroy it...**

How Does This Relate to the Kingdom of God?

Gal 3:16 ESV 16 Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "**And to offsprings,**" referring to many, but referring to one, "**And to your offspring,**" who is Christ.

- While Isaac was a child of promise - and a miraculous birth - these promises pointed to the Christ
- Abraham believed God - and as a result Abraham **was counted as righteous**
- Abraham's being counted as righteous was the beginning of a relationship with God through faith
- So he is now the the father of all (Jew or Gentile) who share the faith of Abraham...from any nation

Rom 4:3-5 ESV For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." 4 Now **to the one who works**, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And **to the one who does not work but believes** in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

- We cannot work for righteousness
- It comes by believing just as it did with Abraham
- He justifies the UNGODLY - I'll come to Jesus once I clean up my act --- that is WORKS - you must know that HE JUSTIFIES THE UNGODLY

Rom 4:21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 **That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."** 23 But the words "**it was counted to him**" were not written for his sake alone, 24 **but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe** in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Gal 3:29 And **if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring**, heirs according to promise.

How Does One Man Bless All the Families of the Earth?

Rev 7:9 ESV After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

2Co 5:17-21 ESV **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **[he has blessed us]** 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; **[that we may be a blessing]** 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**[all families on the earth will be blessed]** 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him **we might become the righteousness of God.**

Genesis 18 - a monumental day

At the same time the LORD is coming to bring judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah because there is none righteous - he is bringing the solution into the world that would deliver them from wrath and the judgment of God (*he is placing the leaven - righteousness by faith - that will affect a large amount of flour - all nations*) pointing to the birth of a child named Isaac, (a miracle birth) whose natural lineage would ultimately bring Messiah into the world - and it is through Messiah men COULD be made righteous

The kingdom of God is like leaven in 60 lbs of flour...it began with Abraham, believing God and being counted as righteous...the promise to Abraham was really to Jesus (the one seed) and through Jesus now the promise to Abraham is being fulfilled because people from every nation are becoming righteous.