



Sometimes We Miss the Point

A preacher took a fishing worm and placed it into a jar of alcohol as he began his sermon. While he preached, the worm in the alcohol struggled and died. "What does this teach you?" he asked. "If you drink you won't have worms", said one of the teenagers.

Sometimes, we miss the point!

Illustrations are windows to shed light on the subject that the preacher is trying to get across. Some preachers build their sermons around the illustrations instead of using the illustration to explain the point of his message. When Jesus gave parables, it was to teach a specific lesson. There is a danger of taking parables and trying to make everything mentioned to have some significance.

For example, I heard a man teach on **Matthew 24:27-28**: "27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 28 For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together." He said that his Lord was telling us that when He comes, it will be during the time Christians are gathered around the Lord's Table eating the Lord's Supper. He didn't inform us which continent determined His coming during communion.

This would matter in light of the fact that the timeframe might cover two days across the world. Such an abuse of Scripture brings embarrassment to us for it makes Christians a bunch of vultures feasting on the Body of Christ.

On the other hand, I am very frustrated with the New International Version Bible's (NIV) translation of

Matthew 13:33b: "...the Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." This is a great error and not a translation of some of the words of the text thereby leaving out some key information.

The King James Version (KJV) states, "...The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."

Notice that the NIV left out these facts:

1. The woman HID the yeast.
2. The amount of the meal – 3 measures.

The parable is not saying that the Kingdom is like leaven but rather it is like leaven a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened. Now there is a vast difference between mixing yeast into a large measure and hiding the leaven in 3 measures of meal!!! The words left out are the point of the parable!

Question.....Does a woman normally "hide" yeast in dough?

The word "hid" means "to hide in," "to conceal," "keep secret," or "to cover". (#1470 from #2928) Why didn't they translate the word "hid?" The text says that she took (*lambano*) and hid (*ekgrupto*) the leaven. The Greek word mixed is "*sugkerannumiont ekgrupto*".

What is the significance of the three measures? This is what Abraham offered to the Lord when he appeared to Abraham. **Genesis 18:6**

Likewise, Gideon offered it when the angel appeared to him. (**Judges 6:19**) Hannah offered such as a meal offering (**I Samuel 1:24**).

There was also Samson's father who offered a meal offering to the Lord. **Judges 13:16-19**

So the significance of the parable is that the woman "hid" leaven, which always represents evil in every other passage in both the Old and New Testaments, in three measures of meal.

A meal offering, which is supposed to be Holy and offered to God, must not contain leaven. Leaven is to be removed.

I Corinthians 5:6-11: "6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 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: 8 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.** 9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. 11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat."

This parable is teaching the same lesson of the preceding parable of the Mustard seed. The Mustard seed shows the Kingdom of Heaven will become an abnormal, monstrous, mustard tree where birds, which represent evil, lurks.

The Jewish mind, would think of Nebuchadnezzar's tree as in **Daniel 4:10-12:** "10 Thus *were* the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and **behold a tree in the midst** of the earth, and the height thereof was great. 11 The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: 12 The leaves thereof *were* fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the **fowls of the heaven** dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it." The parable is teaching that the Kingdom will become a great political identity instead of what he desired it to be.

Likewise, the leaven that was hid in a meal offering demonstrates the Kingdom of God will be filled with deceitfully hidden evil and will affect the whole Kingdom.

Let this article alert you to read more than one translation so you do not miss the point of His story. For an interesting sermon on the eight parables in **Matthew 13**, go to www.summit1.edu and click on the sermon links and listen to "THE OCTAVE PARABLES" sermon.