



A Little Leaven Leavens The Whole Lump

“... The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened” (Matthew 13:33).

Bulletin VCMT37

27 February 2020

“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (Galatians 5:9).

The life of God in a Christian is lively, active, powerful, pervading and transforming. In this parable, Jesus likened the kingdom of heaven to a leaven in the sense that it has the power to permeate, pervade and transform every measure of meal it comes in contact with.

“Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened” (Matthew 13:33).

“And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? 21 It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened” (Luke 13:20-21).

This parable teaches us that **it is not size but impact that matters**. We also learn the following principles, which we can apply to our benefit:

- 1) The Kingdom life and power in the Christian is potent enough to transform all non Christians they come in contact with;
- 2) As long as leaven is separate from the meal, it has no impact / influence on it. Leaven only impacts a meal it comes into contact with. Similarly, the Christian is in the world but not of the world, but unless the Christian comes in contact with unbelievers, s/he has no influence on them. That is why Jesus came into the world and interacted with sinners to save them. He did this to the extent that He was called a friend of sinners. He even said that it is only the sick that needs a physician. A doctor cannot effectively treat a patient that s/he would not see. **Therefore, an Isolationist, segregationist or stand aloof attitude does not transform others for good;**
- 3) The leaven was smaller than the meal - that is why it could be hidden in it. However, the little leaven impacted and transformed the massive three measures of meal. **It is the potential, not the size that matters!** Dynamites that blow up high rise buildings can come in small packets. Faith that is as small as a mustard seed can move mountains. Do not despise days of small beginnings;
- 4) Leaven increases the size of a loaf. The believer in contact with sinners change them and increase

their values, worth and potentials;

- 5) Whether the leaven is hidden or used in baking does not really matter. What matters is that it is in contact with the lump / meal. In the same way, it is not the method a Christian uses to contact unbelievers that matters but having an effective contact. This is what produces the transformation and added value;
- 6) The leaven is not particular about retaining its physical position, shape and identity (i.e. it is prepared to lose them). This is what makes it effective in pervading and leavening the loaf. The leavened loaf does not show the identity of the leaven. The leaven loses its identity in the process of leavening the loaf. In the same way Christians who are not bothered about their self preservation, reputation, style or ego, but who are focused on the glory of God are the most effective in reaching unbelievers and making a difference in the world. **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit”** (John 12:24). A seed must die in the soil, in order for its shoot to grow and bear fruit;
- 7) God had a purpose in creating leaven. A leaven is only useful as it achieves that purpose. Similarly, **God has a purpose for every Christian. It is only the Christian who discovers God’ purpose for his/her life and fulfils it that is functioning as God intended and living at the centre of God’s will.**

Other scriptures, including Galatians 5:7-9, I Corinthians 5:6-8; Mark 8:15, Luke 12:1 and Matthew 16:6,11 shows the other aspects of leaven as being the source of malice, evil, hypocrisy, etc. Just like a good leaven leavens meals positively, in the same wise an evil leaven pervades and increase the size of the evil and pollution. We need to eradicate evil leaven from our lives while pursuing the good aspects.