

THE WOMAN  
WHO PUT LEAVEN  
IN 3 MEASURES  
OF MEAL

**By William T. Barrett**

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**MATTHEW 13**

**33** 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.

**QUESTIONS :**

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8

## THE WOMAN WHO PUT LEAVEN IN 3 MEASURES OF MEAL

### **MATTHEW 13**

**33** 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.

#### QUESTIONS :

- 1 What is the woman doing in this Parable ?
  
- 2 Is this a “good” woman or an “evil” woman ?
  
- 3 What does leaven represent ?
  
- 4 Why are there “3” measures of meal ?
  
- 5 What do the 3 measures of meal represent ?
  
- 6 Is there any other place in the Bible that there is a similar story that would help me to understand this text better ?
  
- 7 What is the Spiritual meaning of this Parable ?
  
- 8 What are the real objects and what do they represent spiritually ?

## MATTHEW 13

33 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.

- 1 What is the woman doing in this Parable ?  
(Preparing to make bread)
  
- 2 Is this a “good” woman or an “evil” woman ?  
(**Good** woman – kingdom of **heaven**)
  
- 3 What does leaven represent ?
  
- 4 Why are there “3” measures of meal ?
  
- 5 What do the 3 measures of meal represent ?
  
- 6 Is there any other place in the Bible that there is a similar story that would help me to understand this text better ?  
(**YES** GEN 18 : 1-6)
  
- 7 What is the Spiritual meaning of this Parable ?
  
- 8 What are the real objects and what do they represent Spiritually ?  
(LEAVEN, WOMAN, MEAL, 3 MEASURES OF MEAL)

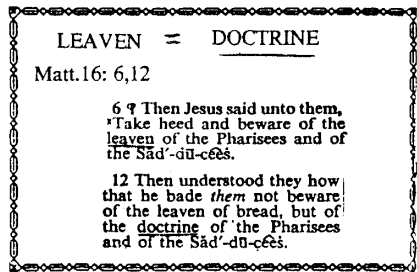
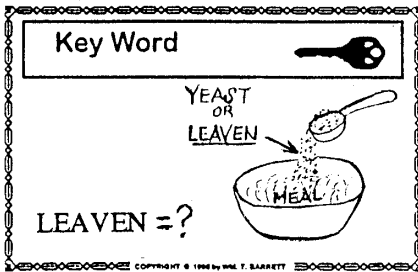
## DISCOVERING THE **SPIRITUAL MEANING** OF THE **REAL OBJECTS**

“**Leaven**” normally represents **sin** ! (1 Cor 5 : 8) “Therefore let us keep the feast, not with the **old leaven**, neither with the **leaven of malice and wickedness** ;...”

However, since this parable is about the “good woman” and the kingdom of heaven it cannot represent **sin** !

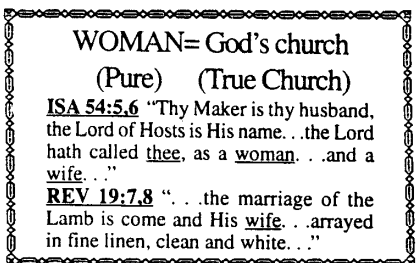
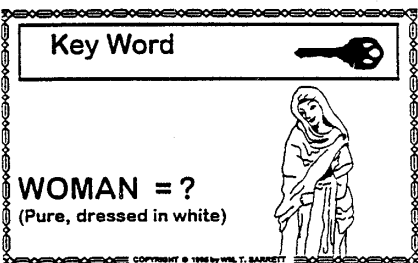
Therefore, there **must** be **another** Spiritual meaning for **LEAVEN** !

In Matthew 16 : 6,12 we **find** the **other** Spiritual meaning



(SPIRITUAL) **LEAVEN = DOCTRINE** (which can be good or bad)

We also know that the **WOMAN = CHURCH**



In **Gen 18 : 5,6**, we find a “similar story” where a woman is using 3 measures of **MEAL** to make **BREAD** or “cakes”.

### SIMILAR “STORY”

#### GENESIS 18

And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre : and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day ; **2** And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, **three men** stood by him : and when he saw *them*, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, **3** And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant : **4** Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree : **5** And I will fetch a **morsel of bread**, and comfort ye your hearts ; after that ye shall pass on : for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said. **6** And Abraham hastened into the tent unto **Sarah**, and said, Make ready quickly **three measures of fine meal**, knead *it*, and make cakes upon the hearth.

**3 men**

**Bread** is to be given to the **3 men**


**Woman** takes **3** measures of **meal**


#### QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS :

- 1 Each of the **3 men** received a “cake” of **Bread**. (Gen 18 : 6-8)
- 2 Who are the **3 men** ? (Gen 18 : 16,17, 22,32,33)  
(**3 angels**) (Gen 19 : 1)
- 3 Thus each of the **3 angels** received **one** of the **3 loaves** of **Bread**.

Now we need to discover what “meal” or “bread” represents Spiritually.

In **Gen 18 : 5,6** we find a “similar story” where a woman is using 3 measures of MEAL to make BREAD or “cakes”.

**Key Word** 



**MEAL OR BREAD = ?**


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**MEAL OR BREAD = The Bible**  
(God's word)

**GENESIS 18** 5 And I will fetch a morsel of bread,  
Make ready quickly three  
measures of fine meal, knead  
it, and make cakes upon the  
hearth.

**Matt 4:4** “Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that proceedeth out of  
the mouth of God.”

So the 3 measures of **MEAL** represent  
3 measures of **SPIRITUAL BREAD**

**Key Word** 




**BREAD = ?**


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**BREAD = The Bible**  
(God's word)

**Matthew 4:4** “Man shall not live  
by bread alone, but by every word  
that proceedeth out of the mouth  
of God.”

*So the MEAL or BREAD represents GOD'S WORD*

**Key Word** 



**THREE LOAVES = ?**  
(Bread in 3 parts)

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**THREE LOAVES = (God's word)**  
(Bread in 3 parts) (in 3 parts)

THREE ANGELS MESSAGE  
Rev 14: 4--10  
(see Matt 13:33 study)

**Matt 4:4** “Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that proceedeth out of  
the mouth of God.”

**3 measures of MEAL = 3 LOAVES of BREAD**  
**= 3 PARTS of GOD'S WORD**  
**= 3 MESSAGES from GOD'S WORD**

Thus, each of the 3 angels received one of the 3 MESSAGES from GOD'S WORD.

Now, the **question** is What are the **3 MESSAGES** from **GOD'S WORD** ?

Since we discovered that "**LEAVEN**" represents **DOCTRINE**, then the key to discovering the **3 MESSAGES** must be connected to the "**LEAVEN**".

{ Lets examine the places in the Bible that  
the word LEAVEN is used. }

*LEAVEN*

put away / out of your houses .....	Ex	12 : 15	7603
be no / found in your houses.....	Ex	12 : 19	"
neither shall there be / seen.....	Ex	13 : 7	"
the blood of my sacrifice with /.....	Ex	34 : 25	2557
the LORD, shall be made with /.....	Lev	2 : 11	"
for ye shall burn no /, nor any .....	Lev	2 : 11	7603
It shall not be baken with /.....	Lev	6 : 17	2557
eat it without / beside the altar .....	Lev	10 : 12	4682

All texts tell you  
to take  
**LEAVEN OUT**

they shall be baken with /..... **Lev 23 : 17** 2557



This text  
**alone**  
besides  
the parable  
texts, tells  
us to put  
**LEAVEN IN**

sacrifice of thanksgiving with / .....	Amos	4 : 5	2557	*
<b>kingdom of heaven is like unto /.....</b>	Mt	13 : 33	2219	
<b>beware of the / of the Pharisees.....</b>	Mt	16 : 6	"	
<b>beware of the / of the Pharisees.....</b>	Mt	16 : 11	"	
them not beware of the / of bread.....	Mt	16 : 12	"	
<b>beware of the / of the Pharisees.....</b>	Mk	8 : 15	"	
<b>and of the beware / of Herod .....</b>	Mk	8 : 15	"	
<b>ye of the / of the Pharises .....</b>	Lk	12 : 1	"	
<b>It is like /, which a woman took .....</b>	Lk	13 : 21	"	
little / leaveneth the whole lump.....	1 Cor	5 : 6	"	
Purge out therefore the old /.....	1 Cor	5 : 7	"	
us keep the feast, not with old /.....	1 Cor	5 : 8	"	
neither with the / of malice .....	1 Cor	5 : 8	"	
A little / leaveneth the whole .....	Gal	5 :	"	

Thus obviously we need to carefully examine the **only other Bible text** that tells us to put **LEAVEN IN** the Bread, (Lev 23 : 17) so that we can discover the Spiritual significance.

**\* NOTE :**

Amos 4 : 5 looks like it is a "leaven in" text but the context shows disobedience to God **by** putting "leaven in" (see texts to leave "leaven out").



## LEVITICUS 23

17 Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour ; they **shall** be baked **with leaven** ; *they are* the **first fruits** unto the LORD.

The above text clearly tells us to **put leaven IN** the bread. (“Shall be baked with leaven”).

The text also tells us the **Spiritual Significance**.

(“They are the **FIRST FRUITS** unto the Lord”).

Now, all we have to do is use the Concordance and look up “FIRST FRUITS” to see the connection between the “**First Fruits**” and putting leaven IN the **3 measures** of meal. (**3 messages** of **God’s Word**).

We need to look for the Spiritual meaning not just the Physical “first ripe fruit”.

### FIRSTFRUITS

The <i>f</i> of thy labours, which thou	Ex	23 : 16	1061
The first of the <i>f</i> of thy land	Ex	23 : 19	1061
of the <i>f</i> of wheat harvest, and the	Ex	34 : 22	1061
The first of the <i>f</i> of thy land	Ex	34 : 26	1061
As for the oblation of the <i>f</i>	Lev	2 : 12	7225
offering of thy <i>f</i> unto the LORD	Lev	2 : 14	1061
for the meat offering of thy <i>f</i>	Lev	2 : 14	1061
ye shall bring a sheaf of the <i>f</i>	Lev	23 : 10	7225
they are the <i>f</i> unto the LORD	Lev	23 : 17	1061
the <i>f</i> of them which they shall	Num	18 : 12	7225
Also in the day of the <i>f</i> , when ye	Num	28 : 26	1061
I have brought the <i>f</i> of the land	Deut	26 : 10	7225
the man of God bread of the <i>f</i>	2 Kin	4 : 42	1061
in abundance the <i>f</i> of corn	2 Chr	31 : 5	7225
to bring the <i>f</i> of our ground, and	Neh	10 : 35	1061
the <i>f</i> of all fruit of all trees	Neh	10 : 35	1061
should bring the <i>f</i> of our dough	Neh	10 : 37	7225
for the offering, for the <i>f</i>	Neh	12 : 44	7225
at times appointed, and for the <i>f</i>	Neh	13 : 31	1061
with the <i>f</i> of all thine increase	Prov	3 : 9	7225
LORD and the <i>f</i> of his increase	Jer	2 : 3	7225
the <i>f</i> of your oblations, with all	Eze	20 : 40	7225
first of all the <i>f</i> of all things	Eze	44 : 30	1061
nor alienate the <i>f</i> of the land	Eze	48 : 14	7225
which have the <i>f</i> of the Spirit	Rom	8 : 23	536
who is the <i>f</i> of Achaia unto	Rom	16 : 5	536
become the <i>f</i> of them that slept	1 Cor	15 : 20	536
Christ the <i>f</i>	1 Cor	15 : 23	536
That it is the <i>f</i> of Achaia	1 Cor	16 : 15	536
be a kind of <i>f</i> of his creatures	Jas	1 : 18	536

among men, being the *f* unto God

**Rev 14 : 4** 536

## REVELATION 14

**4** These are they which were not defiled with woman ; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, *being* the **firstfruits** unto God and to the Lamb.

**5** And in their mouth was found no guile : for they are without fault before the throne of God.

**6** And I saw another **angel** fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel **to preach** unto them that dwel on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

**7** Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him ; for the hour of his judgment is come : and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

**8** And there followed **another angel, saying**, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

**9** And the **third angel** followed them, **saying** with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

(1<sup>st</sup> ANGEL)  
FIRST MESSAGE

(2<sup>nd</sup> ANGEL)  
SECOND MESSAGE

(3<sup>rd</sup> ANGEL)  
THIRD MESSAGE

Thus, putting  
**leaven in  
3 measures  
of meal is  
connected by  
the scriptures  
to the  
**FIRSTFRUITS**  
and a **3 PART  
MESSAGE** of  
**3 ANGELS****

# CONCLUSION

Now, lets go back to the Parable and Paraphrase it using the Spiritual meaning of the Real Objects to see what it says.

PHYSICAL		SPIRITUAL
Leaven	=	Doctrine
Woman	=	God's Church
Meal (bread)	=	God's Word
3 Measures of meal	=	Bread in 3 parts (God's Word in 3 parts) (3 messages from God's Word)

## MATTHEW 13

**33** Another parable spake he unto them ; The kingdom of heaven is like unto **leaven**, (DOCTRINE) which a **woman** (CHURCH) took, and hid in **three measures of meal**, (3 MESSAGES FROM GOD'S WORD) till the whole was **leavened** (DOCTRINIZED).

### Paraphrase :

The kingdom of heaven is like **Doctrine** (leaven) which **Gods Church** (woman) took, and presented (hid) in **3 messages from Gods Word**, (3 measures of meal) until **everyone** (whole) had heard those **Doctrines** (leavened).

**THE LAST DAY MESSAGE TO ALL THE WORLD**  
(3 ANGELS MESSAGE)

**FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE**

**REV 14 : 6** “And I saw another **angel** fly in the midst of heaven, having the **everlasting gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

**(EVERLASTING GOSPEL)** Same means of **Salvation** for **all** :

**REV 14 : 7** “Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and **give glory to him** ; for the **hour of his judgement is come** ; and **worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**

**(GIVE GLORY TO GOD)** Christian Living

**(HOUR OF HIS JUDGEMENT IS COME)** Judgement is NOW  
in session

**(WORSHIP THE CREATOR)** The **Sabbath of the Lord**  
honors **Him** as the **Creator**  
(Exodus 20 : 10)

**SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE**

**REV 14 : 8** “And there followed another **angel**, saying, **Babylon is fallen, is fallen**, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

**(BABYLON IS FALLEN)** Warning against the **religious confusion** and **doctrine of the Churches**

**THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE**

**REV 14 : 9** “And the third **angel** followed them, saying with a loud voice, **If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark** in his forehead, or in his hand,

**REV 14 : 10** “The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation ; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.

**(WARNING NOT TO WORSHIP THE BEAST  
OR TO RECEIVE HIS MARK)** Warning against a specific religious power not to worship as it does nor receive its mark.

## Other Bible Study Helps:

You will want to order “*How to Study and Understand Your Bible*” (104) for yourself or for friends or relatives. This book will simplify your study of the Bible using word pictures of real objects to explain the Spiritual meaning of Bible texts. (See *Bible Word Pictures* reference booklet described below.) “*How to Study...*” is also available in Spanish: *Cómo Estudiar y Entender Su Biblia* (204).

Along with the “*How to Study and Understand Your Bible*” book, you will need to also order the *Bible Word Pictures* reference booklet (106). This booklet contains 240 Bible Word Pictures which can be used to study the **Spiritual** meaning of any Bible text. The **Pictures** and corresponding **Bible texts** identify the **Spiritual** meaning of objects and make it easy to visualize and remember them. The *Bible Word Pictures* will allow you to discover the “**hidden treasure**” of the Bible. Also available in Spanish: *Ilustraciones de la Biblia* (206).

You can start a Bible Study Group using the “*How to Study...*” book (104) or the pamphlet lessons (105), along with the *Bible Word Pictures* ref. booklet (106).

The books “*Bible Parables Made Simple*” (101) and (102) cover the Parables, which contain the Truths that Jesus felt were the most important for us to understand. You will be **fascinated** as you see how the Bible explains itself, as the *Bible Word Pictures* reveal the **hidden meanings** of the parables. **Volume 1** explains 13 parables from the book of Matthew and **Volume 2** explains parables from Matthew and other books of the Bible.

The booklet *Last Day Events* (103) will amaze you as you see all the major events foretold to happen to the church outlined in the first book of the Bible, Genesis.

The book “*Bible Concepts compared to Popular Beliefs*” (107) will surprise you, as you compare the Scriptures and discover the Bible Concept of various subjects as compared to Popular Beliefs.