

Luke 13:20-30

# THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

## \* The Parable of Leaven

{Luke 13:20-25}

*"It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of meal, until it was all leavened."* Luke 13:21

This parable answers the question, "How far reaching will be the kingdom of God?" We again should note that the first kind of kingdom growth is unseen. Only until later is the growth seen and when that occurs it, the growth will be visible and have already spread to every part of the bread, or in this situation, to the world.

**Pointing out imperceptible power and penetration of the gospel throughout the world.**

"Serves as the imperceptible character of the coming of the kingdom. The main lesson is that complete results may be obtained by inconspicuous methods. A very different approach from the contemporary revolutionary tactics of the zealots." Guthrie

Leaven (yeast) is often used symbolically to refer to something bad (Mt 16:6; I Cor 5:6; Gal 5:9). Does it need to refer to evil in this parable? Some think so.

• **Yeast = corruptness** || • **Yeast = growth**

## \* The Head of the House

{Luke 13:22-30}

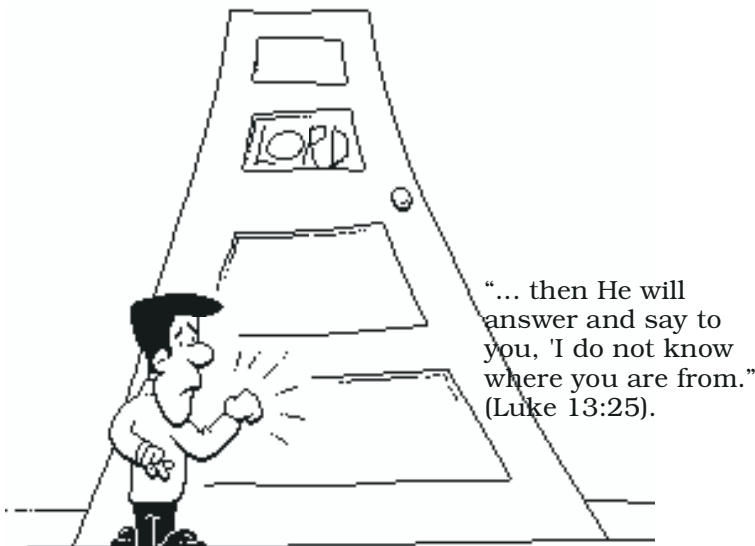
Luke puts this quasi-parable together after these two parables in order to close His argument.

**Portrays the importance of not putting off the decision to enter God's Kingdom.**

*"And someone said to Him, 'Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?'"* (Luke 13:23)

*"Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able."* (Luke 13:24)

One should draw the conclusion from the first two parables that the kingdom of God in its beginning stages would not be as dramatic as the crowd thought. However, Jesus is alert to how man might just take the 'wait and see' approach rather than enter into the kingdom of God in its infant stage. Jesus warns them of the urgency of entering the kingdom and the danger of putting off this critical decision.



*"Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.'"* (Luke 13:25)