

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## *You Asked For It, Pt. 4*

### ***Smaller than seeds***

**Matthew 6:9-10**, “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. **Your kingdom come.** Your will be done **on earth as it is in heaven.**”

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*Jesus told us to pray, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done **on earth as it is in heaven.**”*

- *Then He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like...”*

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**Matthew 13:33-35**, He told them another parable. “**The kingdom of heaven is like leaven** that a woman took and **hid in** three measures (50-60 pounds) of **flour**, till it was all leavened.” Jesus spoke all these things **to the crowd in parables**; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things **hidden** since the creation of the world.” **Why?**

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*Remember the parables of the **four soils** and the **tares & wheat**? He told us before;*

- **“Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. **For everyone who asks receives**, and he who **seeks finds**, and to him who **knocks it will be opened.**” (**Matthew 7:7-8**)

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*They asked Him for understanding of the parables, and He gave it to them*

- **Shall we?**

*What should we ask for in light of the last three parables?*

- **The field** of tares & wheat
- **The growth** of the mustard tree
- **The yeast** and the flour

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**13:33** vs the **unleavened bread** of Passover

- Leaven = **influence from within**, good or bad
- **Egyptian, U.S. or religious** cultural influence among us

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**Matthew 16:6 & 12**, Jesus said to them, “Take heed and **beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees... Then they understood** that He did not tell them to **beware of the leaven of bread**, but of **the doctrine (teaching) of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**”

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*Two things are consistent about God’s **heavenly kingdom on earth** so far:*

- Some important things are **tiny & hidden**
- Seeds **grow to maturity** when **planted** in the soil
- Yeast is a change agent **when hidden** in the flour

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**“The kingdom of heaven is like leaven** that a woman took and **hid in** three measures (50-60 pounds) of **flour**, till it was all leavened.”

**Vs. 33**, Hid = concealed within

**Vs. 35**, Hidden = kept secret

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Yeast, like the seed, is deliberately inserted **as an inconspicuous kingdom deposit**

- It doesn't come in with a marching band
- It isn't even noticed until it is growing

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A speck of yeast is even smaller than a mustard seed

- Yeast is **a living organism**
- Its **power is released** when **deposited** in inert (lifeless) flour
- **Acts 1:8, But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**
- (the field & flour)

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Flour is not going to **become** anything unless **it is changed**

- It will remain **lifeless** & without influence
- Yeast **will not** become like its surroundings

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**Yeast is already living** (unlike salt, **Matt.5:13**)

- It is unyielding, uncompromising
- It will **change its surroundings**

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Seeds multiply within the environment they occupy

- When planted, **seeds** duplicate & produces **more seeds...**
- **That then produce** more seeds, etc., etc., etc...
- Left in the bag, **they do nothing**

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Yeast **changes the environment** it occupies

- Yeast transforms the **formerly lifeless** environment it grows in
- The flour can never return to its former state
- Unlike flour, **people are not passive**

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**Acts 17:2-6**, As usual, Paul went to the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and showing that

the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead: **"This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah."** Then some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, including a great number of God-fearing Greeks, as well as a number of the leading women. **But the Jews became jealous, and they brought together some scoundrels from the marketplace, formed a mob, and started a riot in the city.** Attacking Jason's house, they searched for them to bring them out to the public assembly. When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, **"These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too"**

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The history of the New Testament, **from Christ's ascension in Acts 1:8...**

- **To John's writing of Revelation** probably spanned about **60-70 years.**
- During which the known world was impacted **by the seeds & yeast of the kingdom**
- **Are we living like they did** in the field & flour that is our world?
- If not, how would God have us to change our M/O?
- Do we still pray, **"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."**
- **What should we, as His Church, ask for?**

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Connection Point Video

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**\*\*\* Prayer & Discussion Points \*\*\***

- 1) *What deposits of His kingdom does God want us to make present in the field & flour we live in?*
- 2) *How can we be sure we are influencing the field & flour, rather than them influencing us?*