

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Becoming & Helping to Become

Matthew 13:33,

*He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like **leaven** that a woman took and **hid** in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."*

Leaven brings subtle, inconspicuous, fervent influence

Leaven =

- Mitigation **of solace**
- Makes a general **change in the mass**
- **Alters the quality** of something
- Causes a **gradual change**

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Matthew 13:3 is the **ONLY** positive reference, O.T. & N.T.

- Good & bad **both equal influence**

"Hid" = to conceal & incorporate

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Will we **deliberately determine to inconspicuously incorporate ourselves** in the world we live in; being...

- **In it, but not of it**
- For the purpose of **being influential**
- Living to **make a difference by Being** different?

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When you go to work each day... do you **mentally purpose to DO** what your job description identifies as your assignment?

- **If not**, you may not have your job for long

A young man told me he was **fired for preaching the gospel**.

- I told him he was fired **for stealing from his employer**
- Sadly, he did it in Jesus' name

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When we're **"hidden"** in the world around us, the question is...

- Will we be **influential... Or influenced?**

We're supposed to know that **we happen to it**

- It doesn't happen to us

Romans 12:2,

*"Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by **the renewing of your mind**, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God."*

- **Transformed by** the convictions of **God's Word & Will**

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The whole transaction reminds me of **Matthew 5:13,**

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt **loses its flavor**, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."*

*"**loses its flavor**" is from a single, compound Greek word that means:*

- To **become** stupid

Stupid is voluntary – an unwillingness to learn

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So, will we... live to be **the influence of Christ?**

- To not, is to consign the influence to the world!

Matthew 12:30 – there is **NO** middle ground

*"Anyone who is not with Me is against Me, and **anyone who does not gather with Me** scatters."*

Faith in Christ is **not** passive

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So, our next question is...

"How Will We Love Them Now?"

To make a difference **In** the world...

We must be different **From** the world.