

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Parable of the Leaven

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.



All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been the foundation of the world.

—Matthew 13:33-35.

Leaven is a substance which modifies or transforms that into which it is placed. To accomplish its object in the making of bread it must permeate every particle of the "meal," flour, or dough, making it light and resilient—more readily digested and assimilated by the human being. These things of course were all well known by those who listened to Christ Jesus, so that he was again making use of their common knowledge in order to introduce a deeper truth. Here He is telling them, by means of parable, of the inner power residing in each one which could transform a sordid, limited life into one of beauty, joy, and glory.

The "three measures of meal" we may take to refer to the threefold constitution of man: Spirit, soul, and body. Each of these, in turn, is threefold, and they constitute, together with the mind, the extremely complex mechanism of the human being. Truly indeed did David sing in the 139th Psalm: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made . . . My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth." In *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-*

Conception it is stated that in the fifth stratum of the Earth "is the primordial fount of life from which came the impetus that built all the forms on Earth. It corresponds to the Region of Abstract Thought."

The human being is a crucible in which by means of the process of transmutation, the bodies are refined, the latent inner faculties developed into dynamic powers, and an increasing degree of consciousness evolved.

The threefold Spirit (Divine Spirit, Life Spirit, Human Spirit) emanates from itself the threefold body (dense body, vital body, desire body), extracting as food for the Spirit the threefold soul, (conscious soul, intellectual soul, emotional soul).

"The conscious soul grows by action, external impacts, and experience.

"The emotional soul grows by the feeling and emotions generated by actions and experiences.

"The intellectual soul, as mediator between the other two, grows by the exercise of memory, by which it links together past and present experiences and the feelings engendered thereby, thus creating 'sympathy' and 'antipathy,' which could not exist apart from memory, because the feelings resulting from experience alone would be evanescent."

The Christ brought a powerful leaven to our Earth and its inhabitants, a Divine Impetus which is slowly bringing about a transformation of the planet as well as of humanity itself. Eventually, as we learn to think and act in accordance with the precepts given in the Sermon on the Mount, we will all "walk in the Light as He is in the Light" and "have fellowship one with another."