

When Light Takes Over

The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened.

MATTHEW 13:33

Written by Bill Perkins

The disciples lived in a world
shrouded in darkness.
Rome ruled by force.
Corruption held power.
Evil moved openly.
And people suffered.

Is our world so different?
Technology makes life look improved,
but improvement isn't transformation.
The names of evil governments and leaders have changed.
But not the evil that drives them.

With this reality in mind,
Jesus told a parable that unveiled a mystery.

He took something everyone could see—leaven—
and set it beside something no one could see:
the quiet work of the kingdom.

Jesus chose leaven because it works silently,
invisibly, inevitably. Once placed in the dough,
its spread cannot be stopped.

And Jesus chose an absurd amount of dough.
Three measures—about fifty pounds.
Enough to feed a family for months.
Why? To show the disproportionate power
of a small amount of leaven.

Israel expected the kingdom to come by overthrowing evil,
but Jesus revealed the mystery: it would begin quietly,
growing in ways no one could see.

You may not know this about Jesus—
He anchored this truth
in the words of the prophets.

Isaiah said, all nations would stream
to the mountain of the Lord. Isa. 2:2.

Daniel saw a stone become a mountain
that filled the whole earth. Da 2:35.

Habakkuk declared
the earth would be filled
with the knowledge of the Lord. Hab 2:14.

Jesus echoed them
with His own images:
the mustard seed that becomes a tree,
and the seed that grows while the farmer sleeps.

Different pictures. Same truth.
The kingdom grows even when darkness hides it.
The kingdom advances even when evil stands tall.
The kingdom spreads even when the world refuses to notice.

Do I trust the kingdom's advance
even when I see little evidence of it?

God's kingdom never stops moving.
I want to trust His hidden work
more than I trust what I see.

Father, teach me to trust
the quiet, unstoppable work
of Your kingdom.
Let hope rise in me because Jesus said
the leaven is already working.
I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.