

The Bread of Life

A Bible workshop facilitated by Eric Bashor

Imagine the room filled with the aroma of freshly baked bread.

The Principle Foundation has chosen a passage from the sixth chapter of John (v35) as the Biblical theme for the year. The passage reads in its entirety, “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”

I asked myself, “why bread?” What is so significant about the idea of bread? How does the idea of bread relate to the activity of the Christ as Jesus himself said?

Every loaf of bread has to start somewhere. I began to think about all of the steps that must be taken in order to bake a loaf of bread. We begin with sowing the seed which leads to the harvest. After the harvest there is threshing, sifting, winnowing, and burning. Finally, there is milling, mixing, proofing, fermenting, baking and cooling. Bread is the nourishing result of the combination of all of these steps. When viewed through a spiritual lens, each of these steps must relate to the activity of the Christ for Jesus to call himself “the bread of Life...”

The workshop today sets out to discover the recipe for the “bread of Life.”

Mary Baker Eddy says, “The Bible contains the recipe for all healing.” (SH 406:1) and once we have the recipe in thought we will cast our bread on the waters and discover how this bread nourishes and sustains mankind by the understanding of the divine economy. I understand the divine economy to be the activity of the kingdom of heaven.

As I searched through the Bible for the recipe of the “bread of Life” I was led to consider the parables within Matthew 13. Several of the steps required to bake a loaf of bread are found in these parables.

Part I. The Parables of Matthew 13

A. The Parable of the Sower

What is the seed?

Who is the sower? 259:6-11

What does the soil represent? 587:23

How many types of soil are there?

Why are the first three soils unfruitful? 237:12; 14:6-9; 237:10-12; 36:14

What makes the good soil fertile? 361:28

Is Jesus excluding groups of people from understanding in vs. 13-15? If not, than who or what is he talking about? Mis.99:1-5; 38:26

The link between humility and understanding: Mis.356:22

We still seem to have four types of soil (consciousness). What did Jesus do about it? I John 5:20; Mis.154:16

What did we learn from the parable?

B. The Parable of the Tares and Wheat

How many fields?

How many sowers?

How many types of seed?

Did the duplicity appear before or after men slept?

Who fell asleep? 293:32

Who is the sower?

Who or what is the enemy? 584:17

What do the tares and wheat represent? 595:5; 476:1; 72:13

Whence hath it tares? Mis.27:1 (to!)

What did the servants want to do? Did the householder agree?

Why let the tares and wheat grow together? Luke 6:44

Were the servants ready for the harvest? 505:29-2; 191:28-32; Mis.215:30-3

Who are the reapers? 299:11; 12:10

Harvest Time: John 1:29; Mis.214:25-2

What did we learn from the parable?

C. The Parable of the Mustard Seed

How many types of seed?

What does the mustard seed represent? Gen.1:9-13; Un.6:1; 508:14-16

What does the little mustard seed grow into? Mis.356:16; My.182:11

What did we learn from the parable?

*Summary of the first three parables: 503:20

D. The Parable of the Leaven that a Woman hid in the meal

What does the leaven represent? 118:6; Mis.174:30-5

What does the leaven do? 162:9; 43:7

What does the meal represent? Mis.175:5; 118:13-20

What did we learn from the parable?

*Oven section: 44:5-8; My.191:17; 02'19:2-4

Part 2. The Parables and The Divine Economy

1. The Parable of the Sower

How profitable was the good soil? Are ANY of the other soils as profitable as the good soil?

What is the original claim of the serpent in Genesis 3:1-5?

Solomon and the profitability of understanding: I Kings 3:7-9, 11-15

What were the things Solomon did NOT ask for? What was he given?

Did God give Solomon something he lacked or did Solomon's humility harmonize with the Principle of wisdom?

2. The Parable of the Tares and Wheat

Spiritual discernment and supply, Elijah and the widow of Zarephath: I Kings 17:1, 8-16

Who looks on the field and sees tares (Matt. 13:27)? Who looks at the "face of the sky" and cries "drought" (I Kings 17)? Who looks at the economy and asks why is there a recession? What is the difference? Mis. 355:2; Mis.64:29-5; 390:4-9; 489:28-29

What happens if you mix the tares and wheat? 269:21

What were the reapers instructed to do? (Matt. 13:30)? 233:16; Mis.342:28-1, 343:10

3. The Parable of the Mustard Seed

What is the popular belief about cultivation and organizational development? The root of this belief is found in Genesis 3:23.

What is the relationship between the seed within itself and man? Gen. 1:11,12, 26-31; Luke 17:20-21; 560:11-15; 530:5

The anti-seed within itself: 293:32

Spiritual development in practice: Dan. 1:3-5,8,19,20

If the principle of spiritual development was true for these boys why wouldn't it be true for our organizations and churches?

Why were the Hebrew boys thrown in the furnace (Dan. 3:1,4-6,8-18)? What did they find in the furnace (Dan. 3:25)? '02 19:26 (only)

4. The Parable of the Leaven that a Woman hid in the meal

Compare and contrast The Pentecost with the tower of Babel: Gen. 11:1-9; II Cor. 5:1; Acts 2:1-8, 14-21; Rev. 21:1-4

What is the problem with old Leaven? Mark 8:15; 117:29-31; '01:24:24; My.301:5

What do you do if the leaven is passed its expiration date?