



Infectious Behavior, Matthew 13:33

Infectious Behavior

- Beverly Hillbillies
 - They took all their Limestone Tennessee living knowledge, migrated to Beverly Hills, and struggled to fit in
 - Their struggles were similar to new Christians
- Story of Jim
 - What now?
 - You will discover every person claiming to be a Christian has an opinion

Infectious Behavior

- Can you imagine listening to Jesus' teaching and discovering how difficult it sounded to live as a citizen of God's Kingdom
 - Most of what they have learned to survive in this world needs to be set aside or altered greatly
 - Eye for eye, tooth for tooth we understand that
 - Love your enemy as yourself, do good to those who hurt you - totally contrary to our human reasoning

Infectious Behavior

- **1st Corinthians 2:12 AMP**, But the natural [unbelieving] man does not accept the things [the teachings and revelations] of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness [absurd and illogical] to him; and he is incapable of understanding them.
- **John 6:60 NIV**, On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

Infectious Behavior

- We would like, and some existing Christians expect, to become a superhero Christian immediately after accepting Jesus or at least in the first few months
- **2nd Peter 3:18 NIV**, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”
- I don't know how to mature myself, Randy
- Good news, God leads you to spiritual maturity supplying all you will need
- The maturing in the Kingdom of God is a lot like yeast in bread

Scripture

- **Matthew 13:33 NLT**, Jesus also used this illustration: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.”
- How does this spiritual yeast get into our lives?

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- **John 3:3 NIV**, Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again (*from above*).”
 - There is a fundamental change in the heart, mind, nature of every born-again child of God
- **Ezekiel 36:26 NLT**, “And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.”
 - This has partially been fulfilled
 - God plants within you His Holy Spirit, the seed of possibility
 - Our old sinful, God hating nature is still present as well

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- **Philippians 2:12 NIV**, “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling” (*knowing old ways of living is always calling to you*)
- **Romans 6:14 NLT**, “Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God’s grace.”
- Jesus said the working out process is a lot like yeast used in making bread

The Kingdom of God in the life of a new Christian remains hidden at first

- Grandma Diehl's bread
 - There's not a lot I remember about my childhood but one thing that is vivid is coming into the house and smelling her fresh baked ready to dive into bread
 - It was inviting, desirable creating a yearning in your heart
 - Her bread took time, right ingredients, process, and yeast

The Kingdom of God in the life of a new Christian remains hidden at first

- It was the yeast that allowed the bread to rise creating pockets of wonder in the bread
 - The yeast remained hidden at first when mixed with the other ingredients
 - It took time and the right conditions for it to permeated the entire loaf which caused it to rise

The Kingdom of God in the life of a new Christian remains hidden at first

- This is what the Kingdom of God is like in the life of every new born-again child of God
- We have the yeast of God's Holy Spirit in our lives, and it is in the process of expanding and influencing every area of your life
 - How you see yourself, others, world
 - How you think or process, respond, hope
 - It takes time, patience, working through stumbles and confusion, dedication to the process

The Kingdom of God in the life of a new Christian remains hidden at first

- Be patient, God is not done working on you and never will be
 - We all need modelers not criticizers
 - Encouragers and not sin pickers
- The Kingdom of heaven started small with Jesus and a few followers
 - Its purpose is to spread the pleasant aroma of Jesus and influence the entire world to look at Him, desire Him

God's plan is to spread His Kingdom into every area of your life

- One of the question I get all the time is, “What is God’s will for my life?”
 - The simple answer is to allow His kingdom to spread to every area of your life with nothing outside of it
 - The harder question is “how”?

God's plan is to spread His Kingdom into every area of your life

- The purpose of yeast in bread is to spread into every area of the loaf or you will get a lobsided or flat loaf of bread
 - A lobsided loaf of bread has the same smell but is not quite as appealing as a normal loaf
 - It doesn't look right, Not as appealing

God's plan is to spread His Kingdom into every area of your life

- You ever seen a lobsided or flat Christian?
 - Normally these are Christians who divide their lives into categories
 - This is my Christian life, and over here is the rest my other life
 - They have a Christian area of life and the area of their lives they manage and control themselves

God's plan is to spread His Kingdom into every area of your life

- You ever seen a lopsided or flat Christian?
 - Church life verses work life
 - Financial life
 - Sports life
 - Entertainment life
 - Whatever part of your life you keep for yourselves
 - Until disaster happens

God's plan is to spread His Kingdom into every area of your life

- God's desire is to bless every area of your life with His goodness, peace, joy even in the hard times of life
 - To use the yeast of your life as starter in someone else
 - To provide hope in this dark, hopeless world
 - To demonstrate there are answers to the orcs in their lives through Jesus Christ

God's yeast planted into the life of every born-again child of God can be hindered

- Grandma's bread was sometimes less than perfect – Reason?
 - Something was fighting the yeast
 - The yeast was old, the liquid was too hot or too cold
 - The yeast touched salt, wasn't in a warm place to rise
 - It was sticking to the sides of the bowl it was rising in

God's yeast planted into the life of every born-again child of God can be hindered

- In our Christian lives there are things that will fight against or hinder the Holy Spirit's work in your life
 - Not knowing Scripture, God's Word for His people
 - Refusing to yield a part of your life to Scripture
 - Sensing God's leadership in a certain direction and letting fear or stubbornness stop you
 - "It doesn't work that way today" mentality
 - "This is the way God has made me" mentality

God's yeast planted into the life of every born-again child of God can be hindered

- God does not throw up His hands with you and just give up
 - He removes His peace, sense of purpose and meaning, joy
 - This allows Satan to come in with his replacements
 - God will allow the normal consequences of sinning against His Word into your life
 - While at the same time calling to you, "come home"

Infectious Behavior

- You may feel a thousand miles from God, but the reality is, He is very close to you
 - Close enough to hear your cries, feel your desperation, sense your repentant heart

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- **Deuteronomy 4:26-29 NLT**, 26 “Today I call on heaven and earth as witnesses against you. If you break my covenant, you will quickly disappear from the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. You will live there only a short time; then you will be utterly destroyed. 27 For the Lord will scatter you among the nations, where only a few of you will survive. 28 There, in a foreign land, you will worship idols made from wood and stone—gods that neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. 29 But from there you will search again for the Lord your God. And if you search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him.”



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