

Name:

Date:

Period:

What Was Jesus *Really* Saying?

Take a second look at some of the symbolic elements of the Parable of the Yeast, but this time look at how each of those elements would have been understood by someone living during Jesus' time.

1. **"Yeast."** Read the following three passages.

Galatians 5:7-12

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Luke 12:1

In all three, what is yeast used to symbolize?

2. **"Woman."** Read each passage below and answer the accompanying questions.

John 4:1-42

According to John, what did Jesus do in this story that "amazed" his disciples?

what did Jesus talk about with the Samaritan woman?

Luke 10:38-42

In this story, why does Martha get upset with her sister?

When Martha complains about her sister to Jesus, how does he respond?

Sirach 42:9-14

What is the author's attitude towards daughters?

Take a look at how verse 14 is translated in other English bibles. What's the difference?

Sirach 25:12-25

What is the author's attitude towards women in this passage? What does he have this attitude? (hint: what does verse 23 refer to)?

Now reconsider the parable of the yeast:

He spoke to them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened."

In light of what "yeast" symbolized and how women were viewed in Ancient Judaism, how might people who heard Jesus speak this parable have understood it?