

Donna's Devotional

A Little Yeast

A little leaven leavens the whole lump. –Galatians 5: 9

Jill Carattini tells the story of a bad batch of root beer. Her grandfather's basement contained shelves of glass bottles of homemade root beer. Whenever she, as a six-year old, saw it, her hopes were ignited that it might be an evening for her family to partake in the delicious beverage.

No two root beer recipes seem the same. Some have sassafras root, others juniper berries or yucca extract. But all the carbonated versions have a common ingredient of yeast. Natural carbonation occurs when yeast eats the sugar in the solution, creating carbon gas.

Jill recounts how one batch went dreadfully wrong. She remembers the basement being quarantined for several days while sounds of warfare came up from the floorboards. Like ammunition, bottles were exploding one by one sending syrup and shards of glass from floor to ceiling.

Paul wrote to the Galatian Church and used yeast in his illustration. He told the Galatians that they were running a good race, but someone cut in on them and kept them from obeying the truth. He told them that kind of persuasion did not come from God. There was a false teacher among them and his errors would ferment into something dangerous.

The image of yeast permeating the whole dough is frightening. Yeast is hidden in the dough (or liquid). It is small and almost undetectable, yet it works its way through the whole dough. Like the bottles in Jill's grandfather's basement, a word "void of truth stored in a community or in a faulty motive can cause more mess and damage than detonated soda bottles."

A little sin can make a mess of a life, of a family, of a church. Paul warned the Galatians about false teaching destroying the whole "batch". We need to be aware of those who include just a little error in their teachings, for that error will grow and destroy God's work.