

The Kingdom Parables

The Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

Matthew 13:31-35

Review

Two parables about *planting*

Lessons - not all seed produces -- Good and evil will grow together

Now two about *Growth*

One about the quantity of growth - Mustard Seed

One about quality of growth - Yeast

I. The Parables

Mustard seed - among the smallest of seeds

But when full grown larger than other garden herbs

Birds come and nest in the branches

Yeast - small amount can cause a large amount of flour to raise

Every part of the dough is permeated and changed

II. The Interpretations

A. Natural explanation

Mustard seed not smallest but one of smallest sown

Black mustard can grow to 12 feet tall

Birds nest in it for it provides shelter and food

Yeast probably not dry variety we use but a live portion kept from

last bread making - here a bushel - enough for 100 loaves

B. Two sets of interpretation

1. Negative warning to the church

Growth seen as unruly

Attracting evil (birds) to be a part

Yeast is indeed seen in Old Testament as a type for sin

It was forbidden at Passover and in Sacrifices (honey also)

It was used by Jesus to speak of the hypocrisy of the Pharisees

and the Sadducees **Matthew 16**

So it is equated with carnality and corruption of false doctrine permeating the truth of the gospel.

2. The positive view

The growth of something so small into a plant large

enough to give life to man and birds

Birds interpreted as life in general or

Even Gentile nations as in **Daniel 4 and Ezekiel 17**

Here **the birds** are not stealing the seed away but are guests

The Yeast was commonly used all through the year except at

Passover and was a wonderful gift to all It was hidden

from sight but permeated every part of the dough just as the gospel transforms every area of life

C. The main lesson seems to be clear.

God can take the very small and create something great.

Seeds - gospel - changed the world

**itinerant carpenter/preacher in small villages of a minor and despised small province of the great Roman empire but within one generation after Christ's death all of the Empire and east to India, south to Ethiopia and west to Britannia were touched by this truth with no army.*

Yeast - transforming power touches every area of life

**Sins are forgiven, addictions broken, families restored and life is given purpose and peace that the world cannot understand or touch.*

*Jesus said **Luke 4:18** Paul said **Ephesians 1:6-7***

Growth that will be enough to effect all the nations of the world

Growth touching every area of life.

Lessons we need to learn from these parables

1. Be Encouraged

Don't Quit - even when it looks so little, weak or insignificant.

This applies to your life as well as the church **Zechariah 4:10a**

Don't stop too soon.

2. Make sure all is in God's hands

Farmers cannot make the seed grow

Cooks cannot make the yeast work

We need the power and wisdom of God to bring growth

3. Don't draw conclusions about an effort or God's power based on outward appearance.

In God's kingdom people,

and circumstances are not limited to how they appear in the natural.

Gideon with God and 300 defeated the army too large to count

Christ took two fish and 5 loaves and feed 5000

4. Allow the Word of God to touch every area of your life.

And every area of our church.

The seed - make disciples in all the world

The Yeast - making transformations in every area of my life.