

Reflection Questions: Is God's kingdom visible in my life? Has the leaven of His truth so impacted my life that the kingdom manifests itself in my behavior as well as my thinking? Is my influence contributing to the growth of God's kingdom? How?

How can we pray for one another this week?

Quotes to Ponder

There is no promise here that the kingdom will come in such grandeur that Jesus' followers will dominate the heart. But it does appear that the end result will be far greater than what anyone observing Jesus and His band of disciples would have imagined.

Craig Blomberg

The one (parable of the mustard seed) may fitly show the progress of the Saviours' kingdom in the world, and the other (the parable of the leaven) the establishment of His kingdom in the soul.

The leaven was hidden in the meal. And God's grace must be in the heart. Correct views of it may be in the head, and appropriate observations in the mouth; but the soul is the seat of saving religion.

Jabez Burns

The kingdom is very often today like the mustard seed, is it not? God is still making new beginnings. God is sill planting seeds around the world. Respect the "infinite of the little." Obsession with size is obscene.

Peter Rhea Jones

*When it comes to the kingdom of God,
what you see is not all that you get.*

David Strain

The Lord opens His reign with a feeble and despicable commencement, for the express purpose, that His power may be more fully illustrated by its unexpected progress.

John Calvin

The Leaven, though it is buried, is not destroyed.

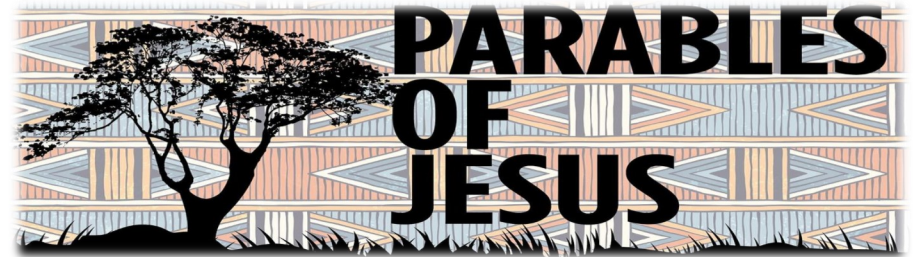
Little by little it transmutes the whole lump into its own condition.

This happens with the gospel.

John Chrysostom

God is responsible for the numerical growth of the church. It is our responsibility to plant seed, to make disciples and teach them.

Dale Whitehead



Mustard Seed & Leaven,
Matthew 13:31-33

Sermon
Notes

April 26, 2020

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Con-
victed you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?
2. What would the world be like today if not for the influence of Chris-
tians over the last 2,000 years?
3. Why isn't an explanation from Jesus given for these two parables?
4. After Jesus told the parables of the tares (*Matthew 13:24-30*), what
might of the disciples been thinking? In response to that, what does
Jesus show them in these two parables (*Matthew 13:31-33*)?
5. These two parables come just after Jesus tells the parables of the soils
and of the tares, but before he explains the parables of the tares.
What is the relationship between these parables? What themes do
they share? How are they different?
6. How did the kingdom of God start out? Was the kingdom here on earth
during the life of Christ? Is it still here? Explain using Scripture.
7. What is revealed about God's kingdom in *Psalms 72:8-11* and *Isaiah 54:2*
-3?
8. Like the kingdom of heaven, what does the mustard seed do? How is it
a benefit (*Matthew 13:31-32*)?
9. What is the theme of these two parables (*Matthew 13:31-33*)? Are they
teaching the same thing or opposite things? Explain.

10. Does *leaven* in Scripture always represent sin and/or evil?
Leviticus 7:13 —

Leviticus 23:17 —

Amos 4:5 —

11. Read *1 Corinthians 5:6-7*. How much influence did Paul say a little bit
of leaven can have?

How can we avoid having sin influence every part of our lives?

Why is it important to keep our lives pure?

12. What does *Matthew 24:14* say about the influence of God's kingdom
in the world?

13. Will the evil of this world overcome God's kingdom? Use Scripture to
support your answer.

14. How has the truth of these two parables played out in history?

15. Have you ever felt powerless and defeated in the midst of all the evil
going on around you? Read *John 16:33*. What attitude did Jesus tell
His disciples to have?

Read *John 14:27*. What does Jesus promise here? What command
does He give?