

## Growth of the Kingdom (...in Our Community)

### **Faith and Power To Change the World**

These two parables go together to teach a two-fold message of how the kingdom of God is to impact our world between the time of the Messiah's first and second advents. Both parables a full of hope and encouragement.

"You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."

*Mat 17:20*

**Introduction:** After hearing the parables about the four types of soil *Matt 13:3-9; 18-23* and the wheat and tares *Mat 13:24-30; 36-43*, the disciples may have wondered how or even **IF** the kingdom would ever grow.

#### **A. Parable of The Mustard Seed *Mat 13:31-32***

##### **Faith to Change the World**

1. A small beginning
  - a. The birth of a kingdom *Isaiah 9:6-7*
  - b. Jesus grew up among the least promising towns
  - c. His first disciples were few in number and slow to understand and believe
  - d. When He was gone, only about 120 were left to pray about the future *Acts 1:15*
2. The growth
  - a. Grow the kingdom... *Mat 28:17-20*
  - b. Grow in faith... *Mat 17:20*
3. A place of refuge
  - a. Nesting carries the idea of protection, safety, refuge, sanctuary and growth. *Acts 2:40-47*

#### **B. Parable of the Leaven *Mat 13:33***

##### **Power to Change the World**

1. Small things can have great influence: The power of the kingdom of heaven is great through a single believer.
2. Leavened bread and the influence of the **Holy Spirit**: Only unleavened bread was eaten during the 'Feast of the Unleavened Bread,' which began on Passover evening and lasted seven days. *Exo 12:15; 18-19*
  - a. At the feast of Pentecost the bread offered to the Lord HAD TO be baked with leaven. *Lev 23:17*
  - b. When the **Holy Spirit** was poured out on the Day of Pentecost is was a sign of the coming influence of the Spirit of God in the world.
3. Influence from within: The leaven must be hidden to have any impact. This is not a hiding so as not to be seen but hiding in the sense of going deep.
  - a. Christians are not to be of the world, but in the world, because that is the only way the gospel can reach and affect the world. *Joh 17:14-16*
  - b. As Jesus was sent into the world—so He sends us *Joh 17:18*. The purpose of the Church is to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."  
*Mar 16:15*

#### Mathew 13:31-32

##### Mustard Seed

**:31** Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a **mustard seed**, which a man took and sowed in his field,

**:32** which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the **birds of the air** come and **nest in its branches**."



#### Mathew 13:33

##### Leaven

**:33** Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like **leaven**, which a woman took and **hid** in three measures of meal **till it was all leavened**."

