

Of Mustard & Yeast

What we know about parables...

1. They used every day objects, events and images to communicate important truth
2. They were designed to test, not the intelligence, but the spiritual responsiveness of the hearer
3. They give us a glimpse into God's kingdom and we are given insight by listening carefully and thoughtfully to the words of Jesus

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The Kingdom of heaven is like... (what we have learned so far)

- The Sower
- The Weeds
- The Prodigal Son
- The Workers & the Vineyard
- The Unmerciful Servant
- The Talents
- The Tenants
- Website: www.gcalliance.org

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The Setting

- Because of the large crowds coming to hear Jesus teach, Jesus is teaching the people from a boat
- Jesus is teaching about the kingdom of heaven in a series of 7 parables
- Jesus recently answered the disciples' question about why he teaches in parables (Matthew 13:10)
- Peasant imagery – unusual examples for a kingdom

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Observations from the mustard seed (Matt 13:31-35)

1. Something small is planted

- The mustard seed was commonly seeded by farmers in Palestine and was the smallest seed they used

2. A small investment grows

- Growth is an expectation of any farmer

3. Something insignificant becomes great

- The mustard tree goes from a small insignificant seed to a large plant that becomes a blessing to its surroundings

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Observations from the yeast (Matthew 13:31-35)

1. Ingredients

- Baking requires different ingredients for bread to be made

2. Something dormant becomes active

- When mixed with flour and water, yeast begins to work and grow

3. Something old is transformed

- The outcome of mixing the ingredients is that the flour and yeast are transformed into something new

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Lessons from mustard & yeast (Matthew 13:31-35)

1. The Kingdom & Us

- There are 2 kingdoms: the world & heaven
- One kingdom is obvious; the other is unseen
- One kingdom promotes self; one promotes selflessness
- One kingdom begins large and appeals to our selfish desires; one begins small and seems backwards/upside-down
- One kingdom grows in us and causes death and destruction; one grows in us and gives us life

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Lessons from mustard & yeast (Matthew 13:31-35)

1. The Kingdom & Us

- God's will is done in heaven, but not always on earth
- The kingdom of heaven is not meant to work by itself except in heaven. Its effectiveness comes as it is added to a time and a place and to a culture and a people
- God has chosen to use those who become subjects of the kingdom of heaven

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Lessons from mustard & yeast (Matthew 13:31-35)

2. The Kingdom in Us

- When mixed with flour and water, yeast begins to work and grow
- When the kingdom of heaven invades your kingdom, transformation occurs and a new creation is made
- Ephesians 2:1-5

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Ephesians 2:1-5

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

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Lessons from mustard & yeast (Matthew 13:31-35)

2. The Kingdom in Us

- When mixed with flour and water, yeast begins to work and grow
- When the kingdom of heaven invades your kingdom, transformation occurs and a new creation is made
- Ephesians 2:1-7
- As time passes, the kingdom grows in us and begins to spread to every area of our lives
- The kingdom doesn't stop with us; it keeps going as it begins to overflow out of us

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Lessons from mustard & yeast (Matthew 13:31-35)

3. The Kingdom Working Through Us

- In the kingdom transformation is the outcome
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

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2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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Lessons from mustard & yeast (Matthew 13:31-35)

3. The Kingdom Working Through Us

- In the kingdom transformation is the outcome
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- We become ambassadors of the kingdom
- Even as the mustard seed grew into a great tree and became a blessing to the birds, so the kingdom of heaven grows in us and we become a blessing to those around us

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Lessons from mustard & yeast (Matthew 13:31-35)

1. The Kingdom & Us

- The Kingdom of heaven is looking to collide with the kingdom of this world

2. The Kingdom In Us

- We are transformed into something new and we are changed as the kingdom grows in us

3. The Kingdom Working Through Us

- The kingdom begins to flow out of us as it works through us to bless others