

**THEME:**     **THE PARABLES OF JESUS**

**TOPIC:**     **THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED**

**TEXT:**       **MATTHEW 13:31-32; MARK 4:30-32; LUKE 13:18-19; DANIEL 4:10-12**

## **INTRODUCTION**

We gathered from Biblical commentators as early as 349-407 A.D that the two parables in **Matthew 13:31-33** were told by Jesus to encourage His disciples in reference to the kingdom.

a. The first parable is that of **"The Mustard Seed" – Matthew 13:31-32**

b. The second parable is that of **"The Leaven" – Matthew 13:33**

Both of which appear to describe the kingdom as destined for **remarkable growth**.

In our study today, we are concluding on what we started on **"The Parable of the Mustard Seed**.

In this simple parable, Jesus offers encouragement to the small band of disciples following Him over the hills of Palestine. They would be a part of something that would grow and bless the world immensely!

What about today? The kingdom of heaven continues to grow and spread out its branches to those who will accept it for certain. According to a recent study by the bible society in the UK. There is currently a quiet revival growing across the world, especially among young people. But can we ever expect similar growth to that witnessed in the first century?

## **III. THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM TODAY**

### **A. THERE IS THE "MATHEMATICAL POSSIBILITY" OF GROWTH.**

1. Beginning with just twenty disciples, each converting just one person a year, and their converts doing the same.

2. Then the growth would be like a mustard seed!

a. End of year 1 - 40

b. End of year 5 - 640

c. End of year 10 - 20,480

d. End of year 15 - 655,360

e. End of year 20 - 20,971,520

f. End of year 25 - 1,342,177,280

▪ All it takes is for each person to bring one soul to Christ each and every year!

### **B. THERE IS CERTAINLY THE "SPIRITUAL POSSIBILITY" OF GROWTH.**

1. We have the same "seed" of the kingdom, the Word of God!

a. A "seed" which is incorruptible, that lives and abides forever – **1 Peter 1:23-25**

b. A "seed" capable of producing what God intends – **Isaiah 55:10-11**

2. While the first two parables remind us that not all will accept the Word of God, this parable declares that the kingdom will grow!

### **C. WHAT IS NEEDED IS PEOPLE...**

#### **1. People with vision**

a. Who have the vision of Christ for growth, as expressed in His parables.

b. Who look not at an apple as a single product but looks at a seed and counts the number of apples that can be gotten from the one seed (with their many seeds)!

c. Who look at converting and developing disciples in the same way.

**2. People willing to put the kingdom of God first in their lives**

a. The seed of the gospel will produce fruit, but only if it falls on good soil.

b. However, if we allow any of the following.....

- The cares of this world

- The deceitfulness of riches

- The pleasures of life to "choke" us, we cannot bear good fruit

c. Therefore we need to put the kingdom of God first - **Matthew 6:33**

**3. People willing to abide in Christ**

a. For apart from Christ they can do nothing – **John 15:4-5**

b. For only they are able to bear "much fruit" – **John 15:5**

c. And only they will be able to glorify God and be His true disciples – **John 15:8**

**CONCLUSION**

It should be noted that the potential for the kingdom's amazing growth rests in the Person who reigns as its King.

- Those who will abide in Christ can be used by Him to produce the remarkable growth in the kingdom illustrated by "**The parable of the Mustard Seed**".
- Secondly, as Paul wrote to the Philippians, "**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me**" – **Philippians 4:13**. Suggesting that growth and influence is part of the Kingdom's agenda.

Brethren, allow "**The Parable of the Mustard Seed**" to serve as...

- **An encouragement** - The kingdom of heaven is destined for great things – "Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase" – **Job 8:7**.
- **A reminder** - That if we are going to be useful to the Master in this ever growing kingdom, we must "abide in Him" so we can "bear much fruit"

Beloved, the question to ask yourself is if you have rested your weary wings in this great tree called "**the kingdom of heaven**"? **John 3:3-5**.