

Kingdom Parables – Week 3 Discussion Questions

The Mustard Seed and The Yeast Mt. 13:31-33 (Luke 13:18-21)

1. Name something that is small but powerful.

Read the two parables in Matthew 13:31-33

2. What do the mustard seed/plant and yeast represent? What about the dough?
3. Who do the planter and the woman represent?
4. What are some things we judge as “insignificant” based on their size or influence? What things do we judge as “significant” based on their size of influence? Where is this judging accurate and where is it not accurate?
5. Perhaps the simplest truth found in these parables is that God’s Kingdom starts small but grows into something big. What “small things done with great love” have you seen done in God’s name that turned into big things with a large impact? What are some things that might discourage us from doing small things out of love for God and God’s Kingdom? How might this parable help us to overcome such discouragement?
6. The way a tiny seed grows into a large tree or a little bit of yeast changes a large quantity of dough is a mystery to many of us. What do you think of when you hear the word mystery? What does the mystery of growth in the two parables say about the growth of the Kingdom of God?
7. Where do you see the mystery of God at work in the world or in the church today? How do we know when God is at work in our lives?
8. What do you know of Israel’s expectations concerning the coming Messiah? How might these two parables subvert those expectations?
9. What do you think is the meaning of the nesting birds in relation to the Kingdom of God?
10. Why do you think Jesus uses the image of a Mustard Tree and not a mighty Oak or Cedar Tree? What might this teach us about the Kingdom of God? (If you don’t know much about Mustard Trees, Pastor Tim will provide some insight during class.)
11. Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8. Is yeast a positive or a negative metaphor? Throughout the Scriptures, yeast is used as a metaphor for corruption/sin. Why do you think this is? Even Jesus uses yeast as a negative metaphor. Read Matthew 16:5-12. What is the yeast of the Pharisees?
12. The only place in the Bible where yeast is used as a positive metaphor is in this parable that Jesus tells. Why do you think Jesus did that? What important truth about God’s Kingdom is he trying to teach us?