

Parable of the Mustard Seed

(Mat 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19)

Background:

Kingdom of Heaven is compared to the mustard seed. This seed is the smallest known to Jesus' audience at the time. That small seed grows into a very large tree that birds can build nests in it.

Key characters and elements:

- **Mustard Seed.** Represents how small God's earthly kingdom started.
- **Farmer.** Represents one who faithfully shares God's Word (plants "seeds").
- **Mustard Tree.** Represents how large God's kingdom will grow.

Key Learning:

- God's kingdom started out very small in size, but has grown immensely and is still growing.

Other Relevant Scriptures:

Revelation 5:9-10, 7:9-17, 11:15, 19:6-9

Parable of the Yeast

(Mat 13:33; Luke 13:20-21)

Background:

Kingdom of Heaven is compared to yeast (leaven, "starter"). The yeast put into dough spreads throughout the entire mixture, causing it to expand.

Key characters and elements:

- **Yeast.** Represents the teaching of God – which results in growing influence of the kingdom of God on the world (and in our personal lives).
- **Flour/Dough.** Represents the world. Could also represent us as individuals.
- **Woman.** Could represent Christians that are sharing God's word and spreading His influence.

Key Learning:

- God's kingdom started out with minor influence, but is spreading throughout the world and growing in influence.
- God's Word and the Holy Spirit can permeate and greatly influence our lives.

Other Relevant Scriptures:

Matthew 28:18-20

II Corinthians 5:17