

The Parable of the Mustard Seed



Matthew 13:31-32

○ **Review Lessons Taught:**

- **In Matthew 13:10, Jesus began using parables to teach about the kingdom of heaven. His disciples noticed the change in His method of teaching, and asked Him the question, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”**
- **According to Mark 4:34, “Jesus did not say anything to them without using a parable and when He was alone with His disciples He would explain what He meant.”**
- **Purpose: to assist us in growing in our understanding by exploring these divine truths found in Christ’s teaching. To teach us what they mean and how they relate to our present and future life in Christ Jesus.**
- **Goal: to allow the Holy Spirit speak to our hearts and draw us closer to Jesus Christ.**

1. What is a parable?

- **It is a simple yet powerful story that Jesus used to illustrate a great truth. Jesus used parables to help His followers understand spiritual truth.**
- **The word “parable” is taken from the Greek word that literally means to cast or throw alongside.**
- **A parable is thrown in to illustrate something abstract.**
- **Parables were stories that were “cast or thrown” alongside a truth in order to illustrate a divine truth.**

2. Jesus began by using the Parable of the Sower to teach about the kingdom of God. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)

- **Jesus uses this parable to describe a farmer or sower who went out and scattered seed that fell on various kinds of soils (hard, stony, thorns, good ground).**
- **Jesus uses three symbols in this parable: The Sower (farmer), the Seed, and the Soil. (vs. 3-9)**
 - a. The Sower (farmer) represents Jesus Christ.**
 - b. The Seed represents the Word of God or the Word of the kingdom. (vs. 3-8)**

- c. The Soil (the ground) represents the hearts of the individual hearer or the spiritual state of those in the world. (vs. 19-23)
3. The Parable of the Wheat and The Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)
 - A man sows good seed. The Man is Jesus Christ. (vs. 37)
 - The good seed. The children of the kingdom of God. These are the righteous men and women of God. These are true believers of Jesus Christ. (vs. 24, 38)
 - a. They are sown by the Son of Man – Jesus Christ.
 - b. They are sown in His field. The “field” represent the world. The owner of the “field” (the world) – is Jesus Christ. (John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:2, Psalm 24:1-2)
 - c. Jesus Christ sows or scatters His righteous seed (the believer) into His field (the world). The believer is Christ representative and ambassadors in the world.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

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- In the Book of Matthew, Mark and Luke we find Jesus using the mustard seed in a parable as an illustration to help them understand a divine truth about faith and unbelief.
1. Jesus used the mustard seed to illustrate a divine truth about faith and unbelief (Matthew 17:14-21). The disciples couldn't cast out a demon in a man's son.
 2. Jesus used the mustard seed to illustrate a divine truth about repentance and total forgiveness (Luke 17:1-6).
 3. Jesus uses the mustard seed to illustrate a divine truth about the Kingdom of Heaven or the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32)
- A. There are Three Things that Jesus wanted His disciples to be aware of in this parable of the mustard seed.

1. **Jesus is talking to His disciples about the Kingdom of Heaven.**
 - He quickly realized that they had an earthly view of what He was saying and not a Kingdom view.
2. **Jesus wanted to teach His disciples that the process had already begun and the Kingdom of God was already upon them.**
 - He knew that God sent Him to complete a task that only He was equipped and prepared to accomplish. (John 4:34)
 - He knew that God had a time and purpose for His life, death and more importantly His resurrection. (No man could alter the timing of God). (John 10:18)
 - He needed His disciples to simply trust, believe and follow Him. (Matthew 16:24-25)
3. **Jesus wanted His disciples to be aware of the difference between the kingdom of this world and the Kingdom of Heaven. (John 18:33-37)**
 - Jesus is teaching His disciples the difference between an earthly king and the King of kings.
 - Jesus is teaching His disciples the difference between an earthly throne and The Heavenly Throne of God.
 - Jesus is teaching His disciples the difference between an earthly mindset and a Kingdom mindset.
 - Jesus spends three years teaching His disciples the difference between those in the world (unsaved, unrighteous, unbelievers) and those in His glorious Kingdom (saved, righteous, true believers). (John 17:11, 14-15)

B. There are Four Characteristics that we need to know about the Mustard Seed. (Matthew 13:31-32)

1. **The “mustard seed” is the smallest seed, but it has the ability to produce great results.**
2. **The “mustard seed” is the least of all the seeds. This doesn’t mean that it has no value, no purpose, insignificant, useless, or to mean that very little can be expected from it.**
3. **The “mustard seed” when planted was expected to grow and out produce every other plant or bush.**

4. The “mustard seed” when it reaches its full growth and potential by becoming a large tree. It will become useful and beneficial.