

## Jesus Uses a Seed and Leaven to Explain the Kingdom of God

(Luke 13:18-21)

<sup>18</sup> Then He said, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it?"

<sup>19</sup> "It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches."

<sup>20</sup> And again He said, "To what shall I liken the kingdom of God?"

<sup>21</sup> "It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures<sup>1</sup> of meal till it was all leavened."

### 1. Jesus Seeks to Explain the Kingdom of God

- a. Kingdom: The dominion of a king; what a king rules; a king is a king because he has a kingdom
- b. Of God: God's rule or domain on earth

### 2. Parable #1 – The \_\_\_\_\_ Mustard Seed

- a. Jesus prompts with two questions
- b. Jesus answers with the parable of the mustard seed
- c. Components:
  - Like...
  - A small, single seed
  - A man planted the seed in his garden
  - The seed grew into a large tree
  - Birds nested in its branches

### 3. Parable #2 – The \_\_\_\_\_ Leaven

- a. Jesus prompts with one of the same questions
- b. Jesus answers with the parable of the leaven
- c. Components:
  - Like..
  - Leaven
  - A woman took and hid it
  - In 3 measures of meal
  - Till all the meal was leavened

### 4. Challenges

- a. Some passages leave us wondering what they mean because of the lack of information.
- b. The meaning of every passage cannot be conclusively understood. With no explanation given by Jesus in the text, the best we can do is try to compare Scripture with Scripture, and draw preliminary conclusions.
- c. We can understand topics mentioned in the passage, and see the different ways how they are used in Scripture, but cannot be sure in this passage how they are used.
- d. We can narrow down options through the process of elimination (e.g. postmillennial view of the world getting better until Christ returns) by crossing off views that do not fit the rest of Scripture.

### 5. Principles of the Kingdom of God:

- a. Small \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Purposeful \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Ongoing \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Invisible \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Inside \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Large \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Certain \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. The Purpose of These Two Parables:

- a. To encourage the \_\_\_\_\_ disciples of Jesus of the impact of kingdom-focused efforts and the ultimate success of the kingdom of God.
- b. To encourage \_\_\_\_\_ disciples of Jesus of the impact of kingdom-focused efforts and the ultimate success of the kingdom of God.

**1 Cor 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

**Gal 6:9** And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

**2 Thes 3:13** But *as for* you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good.