

ALL THE PARABLES OF JESUS

A SYSTEMATIC SERIES

UNVEILING GOD'S ETERNAL TRUTH IN THE PARABOLIC TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER WNX586

FEBRUARY 13, 2013

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED”

ALL THE PARABLES OF JESUS UNVEILED

Parable #3

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Parables, Truth, Enlightenment, Understanding, Wisdom

Matthew 13:31-32

Matthew 13:31-32

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, **32** which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

This Parable Also Appears in Luke’s Gospel (Luke 13:18-19) and Mark’s Gospel Account (Mark 4:30-32) As Jesus Taught The Crowds,

The Parabolic Method of Jesus’ Teachings. *Edu. !!!*

The location is a beautiful one. It’s the northern shoreline of the sea of Galilee, There in Israel

At the Sea of Galilee, at 700 ft. below sea-level it’s warm all year long. It can be humid as well and so all around the shoreline there are crops of you-name-it and it’s growing. Bananas, Papaya, Oranges, Pecans, Avocado, Almonds, Figs, Guava – and every kind of herb. There the mustard grows 7 to 9 feet tall with its brilliant yellow blooms.

With Technicolor Teaching - Jesus Christ, The Living Word of God, Reveals the Truth of the Word of God to the Ears of His Audience.

**“Another parable He put forth to them, saying”
(casting truth words or truth casting alongside the hearer)**

Luke 8:18

Therefore take heed how you hear.

Mark 4:24

Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear.

The parable employs "elements" to describe a point or concept of instruction. Parables create a word picture that points us to the main issue.

THE MUSTARD SEED

1.) Small beginnings

Matthew 13:31-32a

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a **mustard seed**, which a man took and sowed in his field, **32** which indeed is the least of all the (*herb*) seeds."

Jesus Here uses what is called a Rhetorical Hyperbole

The overstating of a truth so as to create a picture in the mind of the hearer.

*"The mosquitoes were the size of birds" or "the fish was as big as the boat or
"this book weighs a ton."*

It's to stress the point as to "What the Kingdom of Heaven (God) is Like."

Notice That the Issue Here is **What the Nature of the Church** would be Like.
What are the dynamics of the church of Jesus Christ in the World?

The Church Globally

Begins Little and Insignificant but from There Grows Ever Larger.

Matthew 16:18b

...and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades
shall not prevail against.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed."

The Mustard Seed of the 1st Century Middle East till Now

Is unlike any type of mustard seed outside the region of the eastern Mediterranean, - the mustard seed is about the quarter of the size of a grain of sand but because of the fertile, warm and productive environment, it grows perennially reaching the size of an average tree.

(The point is, the seed starts out small but has a long growth process and eventually reaches a surprising size.)

The Christian's Faith / The Church's Influence is like a Mustard Seed.

Matthew 17:20b

...I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

It only takes little faith to do great things for God.

#1 – if you intend to glorify God and to #2 – honor His Word by doing it and #3 – to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ then you can expect great things.

Zechariah 4:10 NLT

Do not despise these small beginnings,

Daniel 11:32b

but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

Unfortunately, a lot of Christians start out on a venture of faith

but give up over time because they didn't have the right motive, or they lost their motive among the "things of the world."

You and I are like this in **miniature** – Expound on Christian **Growth**.

I Hope You Qualify for Being Used by God Tonight.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. **27** But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; **28** and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, **29** that no flesh should glory in His presence.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**Just think of It - the sun never sets
on the church in the earth today**

As a Christian

I wanna be asking the Lord, how do I need to grow as a believer
in this age I live in?

As a Pastor

I wanna be asking the Lord, how should we as a church be
growing in this culture?

THE MUSTARD SEED

2.) Big endings

Matthew 13:32b

but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree,

Biblical Scholars Argue at This Point.

#1 – the first group says that the meaning must be a good one because the church, by its supernatural nature “Grows” and that is true.

But the other camp of theologians, group **#2 - say “No this growth is not supernatural” but rather “Abnormal and dangerous” to the church’s existence.**

I happen to agree with both – the church is growing as prophesied it would do in scripture BUT it is being Infiltrated everyday by false teachers, doctrines and deceivers.

For the Real and the False, The Church is providing shade, food, protection

It's a word of encouragement;

#1. The church will grow in unimaginable ways throughout the world.

and becomes **a tree**

It's a word of warning;

#2. The mustard seed growing into a tree is a problem.

There is **Ministry Growth** that is **God Produced** +/- of Size.
But there is a **Counterfeit Growth** that is **Not God Produced** +/- of Size.

We need to be very careful these days that we do not
Grieve The Holy Spirit and What He's Doing.

Is the ministry **biblical**? – Is it biblically **fruitful**? – Is it **godly**?

Our **Goal** in life is the **Finish-line** – Expound on Christian **Maturity**.

2 Timothy 4:1-7

I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: **2** Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching...

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; **4** and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. **5** But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. **:6** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Keeping the faith means to also spread the faith.

Kept

thre ÷ w **tereo**, *tay-reh'-o*; from *tero*/β **teros**

to set a watch or a guard against loss, theft, vandals, marauders. To keep safe by keeping an eye upon. The implication is to erect a fortress or military stronghold.

This is Serious Stuff Here
(We are to be violent against spiritual dangers)

THE MUSTARD SEED

3.) Constant care

Matthew 13:32c

“So that the **birds of the air** come and nest in its branches.”

It's a word of warning;
Evil will seek to stop or retard that growth by dilution.

“The **birds of the air**”

(We already know what's being put forth here – it's a warning for us to be discerning and wise as believers about those within the church...)

Matthew 13:4

And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside;
and the birds came and devoured them.

Matthew 13:19

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

A snapshot of our own personal faith.

We begin with little faith, love and understanding.

Over time and experience our faith, love and understanding grows much.

But eventually - after a while we're tempted to become complacent about our faith and love and understanding so that we become unprofitable.

How do we as a church defend against A Bird Attack

#1 - We must know what the Bible teaches. **(Cover to cover)**

#2 - We need to be careful that we're not parroting the Bible. **(Prophets)**

#3 - We are to put what we know into a daily practice. **(Practical living)**

We're **all** to be on the **same page** – Expound on Christian **Unity**.

Let's All Stand With Open Hearts & Minds And Pray That The Lord Would Examine Our Faith.

I Wanna Invite You to Come Forward Tonight

>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The Call <<<<

_____ *End of Study* _____

Copyright © February 13, 2013 by Jack Hibbs