

Final Kingdom: Mustard Seed & Yeast Parable

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Reflection & Discussion

Jesus tells a story about how the Kingdom of God functions in the world

Read and discuss Luke 13:18-21 (NIV)

¹⁸ Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? ¹⁹ It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches."

²⁰ Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? ²¹ It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

- *What do these stories and comparisons tell us about the Kingdom of God?
- *What is your understanding or experience of a mustard seed/plant or yeast?

Jesus describes the Kingdom using two things that were commonly known for corrupting or infecting

The religious in Jesus' day were very concerned about identifying and staying away from corrupt things.

- *What do you make of Jesus using these negatively perceived examples?
- *How does this perspective of influence shape you?
- *How does this parable flip this concept around?

The Kingdom of God corrupts and infects the immoral things of this world like a virus for good

We don't have to worry about the Kingdom winning.

- *What makes this spread of Jesus' Kingdom different from earthly kingdoms?
- *If the Kingdom is inevitable, what does that mean for us? How is this truth encouraging? What is hard about trusting the Kingdom to God?
- *How does this parable help you see and hear the Kingdom? Where do you see it being displayed like this in our midst?

The Kingdom is breaking forth in the world and into our lives

Will we live for his Kingdom in our life today? This is the constant question.

- *What helps shift your focus to noticing where and how the Kingdom is breaking forth?
- *Who do you talk to about how the Kingdom is spreading? Do you have an example of how these types of conversations have helped you be aware of the Kingdom?
- *What does answering this question day after day look like? What is the Spirit saying to you about asking – and answering – this question constantly in your own life?

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