

The Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Parable of the Yeast

³¹ *He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."* ³³ *He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." (Matthew 13:31-33)*

Jesus speaking about the Kingdom of God in parables so that the meaning will be brought to the audience in a clear and precise way and that will help the people to understand God's word in order to apply in life. In this message we will discuss two more parables.

The first one is the parable of the mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest of the seed but when it will grow the tree will become one of the largest in the garden. Good to know that the Mustard seed tree may reach up to fifteen feet high. Jesus referring here the mustard tree to the church that is planted by the LORD. At the beginning the church might be few in members but later there is great potential for the church to grow and become bigger and bigger in size, further beyond the imagination of man.

Jesus told the Jewish when He was speaking about the Mustard seed tree *that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.* The meaning of the birds to the Jewish is the gentiles. What Jesus is telling to the crowd, to His disciples and to us today the following: We who are His church, the church that the Lord had placed us in sure will grow and sure will reach people, nationalities, places, tongues and ethnic groups that we would never think and imagine.

We know what the LORD was speaking, about the Kingdom of God that is represented on earth with His church, had come true. The church in the first century was extended through the Apostle to areas; lands and people beyond were Israel was. The church had reached other regions of Asia, Europe and Africa through the great commission of Jesus, who commanded us ¹⁹ *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* ²⁰ *and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)*

Now how we apply this parable in our lives today? The parable of the Mustard seed encourages us that the LORD will surely enlarge the church, the tent of His dwelling and He will enlarge our territory and that will impart to us the following:

1- Increase our faith unto Him: Have faith in God that He will accomplish what he had promised.

2- Do your part and give your best input into His kingdom: Yes, it is the LORD'S work and doing, but every one of us has his important part to do. God saved us for a purpose to live our lives unto Him and to serve Him. Your input should be in bearing fruit that goes with repentance; your life should set good example to others to follow, bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and being filled with the Holy Spirit and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit to serve Him,

and to serve His church, the body of Him that He had placed you in by doing your best to evangelize, and making new disciples to be added in His kingdom. Your dedication of your life, time, your money and the rest of what have from possession and resources will help in expanding His work and the growth of His church. So be reminded and got encouraged, *"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1Corinthians 15:58)*

The second parable is the parable of the yeast. In this parable Jesus spoke that *The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.* The women who bake by adding yeast to the flour they know the ultimate effect of the yeast on the dough. That yeast will make the flour swell and have gas and will make the dough grow bigger under the effect of the yeast.

Some they interpreted the yeast, the leaven, as something not good and symbolic to the principle of corruption working subtly and they caught the following Scriptures: ¹¹ *How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."* ¹² *Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees."* (Matthew 16:11-12) and ¹⁵ *"Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod."* (Mark 8:15) But the following Scriptures remove doubt on the universally evil symbolic meaning of leaven, the yeast: ¹³ *Along with his fellowship offering of thanksgiving he is to present an offering with cakes of bread made with yeast."* (Leviticus 7:13) ¹⁷ *From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the LORD."* (Leviticus 23:17)

The most probable explanation of the parable of the yeast is the following: the influence of the kingdom, God's church, is intensive as well as extensive. It affects the whole society with which it comes in contact. That explanation encourage us to continue to stand firm and to do our part in spread the word of God and to continue to teach and preserve the principle of God's word in our lives and in the lives of the people around us. Even people and the society around us might not be happy much with the teaching of God's word about repentance, water Baptism, forgiveness, loving for the enemies, God's judgment, giving, tithing, and living in righteousness, but we must be assured that finally there will be changes and transformation in people lives and conducts.

My dear and beloved: God is encouraging us today with His word, He is increasing our faith and our trust unto Him, that our prayer, *"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* (Matthew 6:10) is answered by the LORD not only for this present moment but for the future, that His church and Kingdom advancing forward to reach the lost and transforming people's lives, as we commit ourselves to the LORD and pray.

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of your Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to move forward with you and the leading of The Holy Spirit to evangelize and to make new disciples and to live in holiness to impart the people around me with the uncompromising message of the gospel. Lord gives me the strength and the good health and The Holy Spirit to do that, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*