

Weeds, Mustard Seeds, and Yeast

Matthew 13:24-43

Main Truth: God's kingdom is eternally fruitful

Matthew 13:9 After the parable of the Sower, Jesus states that "Whoever has ears, let them hear. The parable illustrates that those in the good soil not only receive the word, but are productive and produce good fruit. **Romans 7:4 Colossians 1:9-10 Matthew 13:23**

Matthew 13:11 Jesus speaks in parables and explains that some will understand the secrets of the kingdom of heaven and some will not understand.

The Parable of the Weeds

Matthew 13:24-28 "The kingdom of heaven is like"

The parable is about a man who plants good seeds and weeds grow along side and among the good crop. In protection of the good crop, the farmer instructs the workers to not pull up the weeds just yet.

Matthew 13:29-30 Jesus explains the parable:

Son of Man – the farmer

The field – the world

The good seed – the people of the kingdom

The weeds – the people of the evil one

The enemy who sows – the devil

The harvest – the end of the age

The harvesters – the angels

At the end of all times, whoever has heard and followed will be the ones who are saved. We are not the judges of the weeds and what is to become of the weed's souls. Jesus is the one in His kingdom who will decide who is saved or not. We are called to plant and water the seeds.

Parable Truth: Jesus is the one who judges

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31-32 In this parable the tiny mustard seed is sown in the field and grows into a large plant that becomes a tree. The mustard seed represents the kingdom of heaven.

God's kingdom is represented by the eternal impact on the souls of the lost and broken.

Matthew 17:20 "He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing is impossible for you."

Big things can happen in God's kingdom when a little bit of faith is exerted.

As the kingdom of God grows, it becomes great, just like a mustard tree.

Parable truth: God's kingdom is great and glorious

The Parable of the Yeast

Matthew 13:33 "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

One interpretation sees the yeast as something evil placed in the kingdom which eventually causes the kingdom to become evil. Other scriptures in the Bible reference yeast as being unclean and evil.

Galatians 5:9 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Exodus 12:15

A second interpretation sees yeast as something good. The kingdom of God grows from something very small to a place where its growth covers the entire world.

God's kingdom is successful despite the presence of evil in our world. Truth comes for God, his Word, and his Spirit alone. The gospel message has grown and has reached the ends of the earth because of Him.

Parable Truth: God's kingdom is dependent on God alone!

Main Truth: God's kingdom is eternally fruitful

Application:

- Give your life to the good farmer
- Be part of God's kingdom's growing process (evangelism and discipleship)
- Depend on God alone today!

The seeds are planted and they grow into wheat which is turned into flour and made into bread.

John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Jesus is the only one who can sustain us. In His kingdom, He is the only one who can fulfill us and prove for us eternally.

John 6:10-11 Jesus fed 5000 men and their families starting with just a few small loaves of bread.

Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He is the Bread of Life and was broken for our iniquities.

Small Group Discussion Questions

Weeds, Mustard Seeds, and Yeast Matthew 13:24-43

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Parable of the Weeds

1. Who is the man who sowed good seed, and who is the enemy that sowed weeds?
2. Why does the landowner command that the weeds be left to grow until the harvest rather than being pulled out immediately?
3. According to Jesus' explanation (vs 29-30), discuss each of the symbols he uses in the parable. See outline notes.
4. What does the delay in judgment reveal about God's patience and the potential for repentance?
5. How does the coexistence of "wheat and weeds" shape your perspective on those who attend church?
6. Is it our job to judge and predict who we think is the weed? Why is it dangerous for believers to attempt to judge or separate individuals they perceive as "weeds"?
7. In what practical ways are you called to trust God's justice rather than taking judgment into your own hands?

Matthew 13:31-33 Parable of the Mustard Seed and Yeast

8. How do the mustard seed and the yeast illustrate the growth and influence of the Kingdom of God?
9. What contrast exists between the small, insignificant beginning of the kingdom and its large, widespread end result? What were the numbers and size of individuals at the beginning and at the end?
10. **Matthew 28:18-20** Discuss the command that Jesus gives everyone of his disciples for his Kingdom growth. How do we do this? What does disciple-making look like?
11. How does the transformative nature of the mustard seed and yeast encourage you in your role in evangelism or discipleship?
12. Have you seen a family where one person came to faith and then many others did one by

one?

Personal Study Guide

Jesus is the Bread of Life

John 6:35

John 6:31-33

John 6:26-29

John 6:47-58

The Mustard Seed

Matthew 17:20

Luke 17:5-6

Matthew 13:31-32

Mark 4:30-32

Luke 13:18-19

Faith

Hebrews 11:1

Matthew 21:21

Mark 11:23

Hebrews 11:6