

WEEK 2 -THE MUSTARD SEED AND THE YEAST

EARS TO HEAR

the parables of Jesus

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field...
The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread...

Matthew 13:31-33

OVERVIEW

Jesus knew his audience. With most of his listeners and followers being subsistence farmers in a largely agrarian society, farming and food metaphors were sure to hit home. In these two short illustrations, Jesus compares the kingdom of God to two very small things which have a big impact. As we meditate on the meaning of these simple images, like all parables they invite us to ask some bigger questions. "Does the small size of the mustard seed imply it is easy for us to miss? What is the meaning of the birds nesting in the branches? What does it mean for the kingdom, like yeast, to affect 'every part of the dough'?" As we explore these questions, we will likely be surprised to learn that although the kingdom of God can often seem seemingly small and insignificant, it has a reach and influence on the world greater than anyone might expect.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What else can we infer about the plant that grew out of the mustard seed? How would you describe it? How is this like the Kingdom of Heaven?
2. Where is your hope right now?
3. How are you seeing the Kingdom move at the present?
4. How can you be a part of that Kingdom movement?
5. Where do you need to have patience?
6. Why else might yeast be used as an example in this parable? What does yeast do?
7. What is the Holy Spirit doing in your life for the seed to grow in you personally - for the leaven to spread through you for the world to see?

