

Parables of Jesus part 7

Various Scriptures

"We do, however, speak a wisdom among the mature, but not a wisdom of this age, or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. On the contrary, we speak God's hidden wisdom in a mystery, a wisdom God predestined before the ages for our glory." -1 Corinthians 2:6-7

Kingdom of God: The concept of God's kingly or sovereign rule, encompassing both the realm over which rule is exerted and the exercise of authority to reign.
Matthew 4:8; 24:7; Psalm 103:19; Psalm 22:28

The kingdom of God is significant in the nation of Israel, the proclamation of the _____, and the presence of the church.

As we continue explaining God's word to the world, what would you say is the biggest misunderstanding about the kingdom of heaven?

The kingdom of heaven is like....

The Parable of the Growing Seed: Mark 4:30-32

As Jesus continues to explain the kingdom of heaven, He shares more parables for all the disciples/people to picture in their mind what the kingdom of heaven is like.
Can you see it?

A man: (Jesus, a disciple, or _____)

Seed: (The Word of God)

*It is _____ on the ground.

*it _____ and grows, though he does not know how. 1 Corinthians 3:6-7; Acts 18:5-10

Verse 27 He sleeps and rises night and day; In other words, after the man sows the seeds, he then goes on in his day-to-day routine.

Soil: (The person(s) receiving the word)

After some time, the seed interacts with the soil mysteriously.

*It _____ crop by itself, Isaiah 55:10-11

Notice the growth process; first the _____, then the _____, and then the full _____ on the head. Romans 5:1-5

What was the growth process like for the plant? Was it quick or gradual?

Harvest: (End of the age)

As soon as the crop is ready, he sends for the sickle, because the harvest has come.

Revelation 14:14-19

What does this parable mean?

Once the gospel is planted in a fertile mind, the word of God contains its own power to grow and mature. In the end God will reap the harvest of all that we do/produce for His kingdom.

As you reflect on the meaning of this parable, how does this encourage you to share the good news of the gospel more? How does this apply to born again believers who are backsliding? 1 Peter 1:22-25; James 1:21

The Parable of the Mustard Seed: Mark 4:30-32; Matthew 13:31-32; Luke 13:18-19

Mustard seeds: are small round seeds of various mustard plants, ranging about 1 to 2 millimeters in diameter.

-In the Bible, what else does Jesus compare a mustard seed to?

* _____ Matthew 17:20; Luke 17:6

What is the difference between having little faith and having the faith of a mustard seed?

-The kingdom of God....

Mustard seed:

Sown and planted in the soil, as it grew it became _____ than all the other garden plants, and _____ large branches, so that the birds of the sky can nest in its shade.

In other words, it becomes a place of _____. Psalm 91

Interesting facts:

*They are not easily killed. Mustard bushes can withstand high pressure and high _____. A fire in the field will destroy everything except a mustard plant.

*A fully grown black mustard bush only grows to about _____ ft tall when planted in a garden. However, in the wild there are some rare, cases when they have grown to about 10-15 ft tall.

*It grows with attention (farmer), but it also grows on its own(God).

*A mustard plant is like a weed in that it sprouts quickly but can also lay dormant for years.

*The Pods of seeds on a mustard plant holds thousands of seeds so _____ plant can give rise to _____ more plants.

So, what was Jesus saying? What picture was He painting for us to see?

-Jesus was painting a picture of a dramatic work of God, so that his listeners would envision a **huge mustard tree like they have never seen before.**

-Although the kingdom of God started off _____ with just a few disciples, it would grow tremendously despite its unfortunate beginning.

Today there is said to be over 2.3 Billion people in the world who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior. Never in their wildest dreams could they imagine that the advancement of the kingdom of God would spread all over the world.

Have you ever witnessed something start off bad but gradually became good and powerful? Have you ever witnessed something unattractive become beautiful to behold? When you consider how the Christian faith started and all it has endured, how does this motivate you?

The Parable of the Yeast: Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:20-21

Yeast/Leaven: A type of fungus used as a fermenting agent, to raise bread dough, and as a food supplement.

-In the Bible, what else does Jesus compare yeast to?

* _____ Matthew 16:6-12

* _____ Luke 12:1

* _____ Mark 8:15

He's talking about the spread or influence of a particular matter....

Kingdom of God.... Verse 21

Just like yeast is worked through the whole batch of dough to make leaven bread, so will the gospel go through the whole _____.

As you reflect on this parable, what are some ways you can work sharing the gospel into your homes, job and community?

“Whatever makes you uncomfortable is your biggest opportunity for growth.” -Brayant H. McGill