

Parable of the Mustard Seed & Leaven (Matt 13: 31-33)

- Both parables speak to the same theme: small beginning & great results
- The kingdom of God starts small but its influence will be extensive
- Living in a time when Christianity has greatly impacted the world

I. Background: Understanding the Kingdom Jesus is talking about

- Old Testament prophets predicted the Kingdom of God on earth
- When Messiah would usher in the Kingdom – it would be far reaching.
- He would bring peace, end war, alleviation of suffering, even end death
- Micah 4:1-5; Zech 8:18-23: Jews lived in hope of the coming kingdom
- They knew Jesus was Messiah but these things were not happening
- Pilate asked Jesus what Jews were asking: are you the king? John 18: 33
- They couldn't deny His miracles, power, how he spoke with authority
- Jesus answers: "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" v.34 Pilate was just parroting the Jews (v35)
- There's no question He is the king, but His kingdom is not of this world
John 8:36; Romans 14:17; Luke 17:20

II. A Closer Look at The Parable of the Leaven 13: 33

- A piece of leaven placed into a batch of dough- it permeates & spreads
- Huge amount of dough: 3 measures of meal is equivalent to an Ephah
- Positive picture: leaven makes the bread more edible, effects it for good

III. Key Truths and Applications of the Parable of the Leaven

1. The power of the kingdom is great. That's the lesson
2. The positive influence of - kingdom comes from within

Matthew 16: 18; Revelation 11:15