

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Leaven

Matthew 13:31-33

³¹ He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Some reminders:

Every parable stands on its _____ but is not _____.

Don't _____ the analogy. (This isn't a botany lesson.)

Consider the _____ audience and how they would have heard these words.

(cf. Daniel 4:10-12, 20-22; Ezekiel 17:23; 31:26)

The message: "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed ..."

This is a straightforward, _____ statement:

God's Kingdom will _____.

Its beginnings were seemingly _____ and _____.

By the end, it's growth will be _____.

The meaning:

God's Kingdom is _____ ...

God's Kingdom is _____ ...

God's Kingdom is _____ ...

It is _____. You will _____ it.

³³ He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

The message: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven ..."

The meaning is similar to the previous parable. Just as we know what seeds do, we understand what leaven does. The message is not a difficult one.

The meaning:

God's Kingdom is _____ ...

God's Kingdom is _____ ...

God's Kingdom is _____ ...

It is _____. You will _____ it.

Conclusion:

In both parables, a central message emerges: God's Kingdom is _____

It is His purpose to _____ with truth and grace.

It is His purpose to _____ with truth and grace.