SERMON NOTES JULY 9, 2017

The Kingdom Beginnings from Modest to Vast

Matthew 13:31-35
Pastor Scott Williams

Introduction: If you were to ask the disciples for a metaphor for the kingdom of God, it's pretty likely they would have picked something grand in its size and scope like the ocean, or something of great power like thunder and lightening from a storm. It's probably a safe bet that a mustard seed wouldn't have been on their list. Why does Jesus choose to compare God's kingdom to something so small and seemingly insignificant?

01.

02.

03.

Disturbing Stories

The Parables in Matthew

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION & DISCOVERY

1. If you were to think of a metaphor for the kingdom of God, what would it be? What aspects of the kingdom would you want to highlight?

2. Read the Parable of the Mustard Seed. What characteristics of the kingdom of God is Jesus highlighting by comparing it to this small seed?

3. Read the Parable of the Yeast. Yeast doesn't just make the dough bigger, it permeates itself throughout the whole batch. How is this like the spread of God's kingdom?

4. Read Acts 3:42-47. How is the truth of these parables reflected in the beginnings of the church in Acts?

5. What encouragement can we find from these two parables when it comes to the ministry of the church or even our personal ministry with others?

Disturbing Stories

The Parables in Matthew

SERMON SLIDES

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The Kingdom Beginnings from Modest to Vast

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1. Read Matthew 13:31-33

2. 01. *<u>The Principle of Small Beginnings:</u>* God's Kingdom will have a seemingly small and modest beginning but will grow quickly and vastly.

3. For three hundred years the Roman Empire threatened the church at every turn. Far too often the threats led to depravation and violence. The church had no funds, no media outlets, no training centers and many foes, yet it spread without ceasing. After three hundred years, historians estimate that five to eight million Christians ranged through every corner of the empire. Today, the Christian faith is more widespread than any religion, any faith, any ideology. - *Daniel Doriani*

4. 02. *<u>The Principle of Inner Transformation</u>*: The gospel is the core of the kingdom that transforms from the inside out, permeating through every aspect of who we are.

5. The advance of God's kingdom is not just that it expands outwardly but inwardly… on a personal level the kingdom starts off as a seed in your heart and slowly it works its way through your thoughts, beliefs, affections, motives and actions. It then works it's way through you into others lives and through them into still others lives.
- *David Platt*

6. 03. *<u>Question:</u>* Where in your life does the transforming power of God's grace still need to permeate and transform?

7. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. - *Ezekiel 36:25-27*

Disturbing Stories

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