



The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31-32

Introduction: How many of you are old enough to remember the Old Grey _____ television commercial? (Show video).

How many of you like _____ as a condiment?

Why would I spend this time talking about _____? Let's look at what Jesus taught.

I. The _____ of the Church – 13:31-32

31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

Do you remember what the word _____ means? The definition that I like is – an earthly story that reveals a heavenly truth.

True learners want and _____ spiritual truth.

A parable is a story that reveals a _____ truth. Friends, there is some awesome truth in these two verses. Don't miss it. Open your eyes and turn on

your ears. Let the truth enter the portals of your eyes, and into the audio canals of your ears. Allow the Holy Spirit to instruct you as we make our way through this parable.

[Matthew 13:31](#) speaks of **the kingdom of _____**. In the same parable found in [Mark 4:30](#), it speaks of **the kingdom of _____**. If you are a part of God's kingdom then you have been placed into the kingdom of heaven – your place is secure!

What do we know about the _____ seed? It is the smallest of all the seeds, according to verse 32. But is it?

There's an old proverb that says, "Small as a _____ seed."

This parable paints a picture for us of the _____, or the beginning of the Church. God's institution called the Church began small.

Paul taught in [1 Corinthians 12:28](#), *"And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, administrations, variety of tongues."*

II. The _____ of the Church – 13:31b-32

31b which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

As I read these two verses, I saw five symbols being employed. After thinking about those symbols, I came up with five questions:

As we seek to answer these five questions, we must interpret this parable considering how Jesus explained the other parables here in Matthew 13.

Here's how I would answer those five questions, and I base my answers upon how Jesus explained the first two parables ([Matthew 13:18-23](#); [36-43](#)).

- The _____ that sowed in this parable is Jesus Christ – 13:37
- The _____ in this parable is the world – 13:38
- The _____ in this parable is both the written word and the living word. In the parable of the Sower, the seed was the word of God. In the parable of the wheat and tares the seed were the children of the kingdom. In this parable, the seed is both the Word of God and the children of God – 13:19 (*word of the Kingdom*).
- The _____ growing into a tree is the growth of the worldwide Church. It started very small and has grown into something very large – 13:
- The _____ in this parable represent the devil and his demons. We see this also from the parable of the Sower – 13:4,19

I concluded that the emphasis is on **the _____ growth of the mustard seed (the Church) into a tree.**

Mustard seed is very _____. Jesus says, "*It is the least of all the seeds.*" Here in this parable, Jesus uses it as a picture of the way the church started. It started very small, but it didn't stay tiny – it grew into something very large.

The church started as small as a _____ seed, but it has become something very large.

Look the world over and you will find the mark of the Church there. There is not a place where the impact of the growth of the Church has not been felt.

III. The _____ of the Church – 13:32

32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

When you and I read the Bible, we must always allow the _____ to interpret itself.

The teaching is that the _____ is among us. The devil is in the church.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 - "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an Angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers possible transformed themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."

The Barna Poll

Conclusion: The Church started _____. Many at that time believed that Jesus and His disciples were just a flash in the pan. Christianity began with just a _____ of men and has grown into something big! 2.1 billion people around the globe claim to be Christians. is why even in the country of Iceland you can have clergy who are unsaved.

Friends, you had better _____ that you know Jesus Christ.

A message to the Church – We started _____, a humble beginning. Let us not forget our beginning. The Church has grown into something _____ – we are doing what God commissioned us to do ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)). The Church has become _____. So, then, we must guard against the birds that would seek to rest on the branches of Christendom. Jude told us, "*to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints*" ([Jude 3](#)).