

MYSTERY & MAJESTY

– 4 –

Hidden Power

- ❖ The parable about the wheat and weeds is about a biblical worldview.
- ❖ It helps to explain why evil remains if the kingdom has come.
- ❖ Two paired parables that show how the kingdom operates.
- ❖ The people in Jesus' day were hoping that the kingdom would arrive loudly: National restoration, judgment on Rome, justice established.
- ❖ Jesus is telling them that the kingdom is here and people are wondering why these things aren't happening.

Matthew 13:31-32 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.”

- The mustard seed would culturally have been the smallest seed.
- There are smaller seeds in the world.
- Jesus is speaking to them in familiar terms.
- Small beginnings that yield disproportionately large results.
- This particular mustard seed was forbidden in Jewish laws from being mixed with other plants.
- It grew like a weed, aggressively taking over.
- The seed here is not “faith”.
- It is the Kingdom.

Matthew 13:33 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.”

- Leaven – rising agent like yeast.

- Leaven is hidden and cannot be removed.
- It permeates the entire batch.
- Leaven is usually used in a negative sense.
- Here it is used positively.
- “Until it was all leavened” - The kingdom is not content to occupy one corner of your life.
- This was a large amount of flour, small amount of leaven.
- About enough to feed 100 people. Approx. 50 lbs.
- Jesus is using common everyday examples to help us understand that there is no place beyond God’s reach.
- The field of the world, the work of mother/wife in a kitchen.

Matthew 13:34-35 34 All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. 35 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.”

- Jesus quotes Psalm 78
- It recounts God's faithfulness, Israel's rebellion, God's judgment, God's mercy, God's covenant purposes.