



The Kingdom Pt. 4 Matthew 13:31-33

Intro: Jesus now starts to address Kingdom character. The seed of the kingdom is a transformational seed, that has to be embraced. When embraced it leads to growth and fruitful transformation, especially in our character.

Matthew 13:31-33 “**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.” **33** Another parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three [a]measures of meal till it was all leavened.”

1. Kingdom appears inconsequential to the natural man.

- vs. 32 It is the least of all the seeds
- “God uses the weak, base and foolish things in the world’s opinion
- He does it to confound the wise.

When we are walking in the flesh it is easy to overlook and underestimate its importance!
Walk in the Spirit!

2. The Kingdom is unappealing to the natural man.

- Mustard seeds are tiny
- Leaven smells and is not easily palatable

We often want the blessings of the kingdom but we don’t want the work of the kingdom which facilitates it. Like the Israelites we often want to see the miracles and eat the loaves and fish, but we don’t want to embrace the deeper word & work of “Eat my flesh and drink my blood.

3. The Kingdom is meant to permeate us and grow us in all aspects of life

- Spirit
- Soul
- Body

The kingdom of heaven challenges our character to grow and conform to His Character. As citizens of His kingdom we are called to reflect this image, His character, His will and His ways. We are called to be completely transformed and conformed to Him. Yet so often we want the benefits of the kingdom without actually paying the price of citizenship. Benefits without ownership.

Story: When my kids were going up we had a small house with a big yard. The neighbor kids liked to come over and enjoy the benefit of my lawn. One kid in particular like to come over and enjoy the benefits of my lawn. **He also liked to squat on it!** Don't be a squatter. Squatters take and never give. Or when they do give its never what you want! They want the benefit of the kingdom, but they don't want to pay the price to actually own the treasure! They run amuck taking...and squatting.

Vs. 44-46 Hidden Treasure and Valuable Pearl

4. It's not enough to see the treasure...We're called to buy the field

- Vs. 44 & 45 We must sell all to buy the treasure
- The Kingdom is valuable! It's a treasure!
- The price of "selling all" leaving all behind is nothing compared to what we gain!

Conclusion:

God's desire, His good pleasure is to GIVE you the kingdom. To receive the gift we must let go with BOTH HANDS of everything else we are holding on to.

- You don't need to fear...what he gives is good!
- You can't out give God...what you give will always be exceeded by what He gives!