

Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Worship – 8-9-23
Matthew Chapter 13 Part 5
The Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Leaven

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) The Parable of the Soils - what made the difference in the amount of fruit produced by the seed?
- 2) Two Questions:
 - a) How do we care for the soil of people's hearts?
 - b) How do they care for their hearts?
- 2) The Parable of the Tares: **Matthew 13:24-30**
 - a) Jesus interpreted this parable in **Matthew 13:36-43**.
 - b) Verse 24 Jesus identified – the “**man**” referenced is the “**Son of man**” that is Jesus. The “**good seed**” that is sown in this parable isn't the Word of God, but it speaks of the “**children of the kingdom**”. The “**field**” speaks of the “**world**”.
 - c) The enemy sowed “**tares**”, verse 25.
- 3) “**Tares**” -
 - a) Something that is sown that looks like the real thing but is not and does not bear fruit.
 - b) Describes the real hypocrite in the church for they resemble Christians, and some can even live their lives in such a way that it makes it hard to tell them from true believers.
 - c) This sowing of tares seems easy as if satan knows the soil so well that he knew it would take root and grow.
- 4) In time the harvest is coming. **Verse 30**.
- 5) How can the Church respond in our day and time to this parable?

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) The next two parables - Mustard Seed and the Leaven.

2. The Parable of the “grain of mustard seed.” **Matthew 13:31-32**

a. Some Observations:

b. Jesus did not interpret this parable for us specifically:

- 1) Some different views concerning this parable.
- 2) Keep in mind:
 - a) **Verse 32** – “**birds**” - Parable of the Sower the birds were associated with the evil one.
 - b) **Verse 38** - The “**field**” - was a picture of world.

c. There are some different views taught here:

- 1) Warren Weirsbe –
- 2) J. Vernon McGee -
- 3) Bible knowledge Commentary – Dallas Theological
 - a) Harmony exists among many scholars - the mustard seed and what it represents.
 - b) Concerning what the “birds” represent – differing opinions.

d. I think context and continuity is key here:

- 1) The parable's purpose – to reveal the “**mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.**”
 - a) There is now not going to be a throne but a cross.

b) **Matthew 21:43** -

- 2) It seems the mustard seed growth parallels the magnitude of Christianity in the world.
- 3) The “**birds**” seem to suggest how Satan is at work within and without.
- 4) Think back about the Parable of the Sower.
- 5) Remember what Jesus is describing.

3. The Parable of the Leaven: Matthew 13:33

a. Some observations:

b. Jesus did not specifically interpret this parable for us:

- 1) If we follow the progression of Christianity in the world -
- 2) In this verse the key word, term seems to be “**leaven**.”
 - a) One view sees the leaven as the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 3) Does this fit with what we learned from the mustard seed?
 - a) What have you seen in the growth of Christianity worldwide?
 - b) Are there tares? What would they look like?
 - c) A recent example from American Family News.
- 4) The use of the word “**leaven**” needs to be considered.
 - a) Not really used in a good sense.
 - b) What about the three measures of meal?

c. There seems to be a pattern:

- 1) The Mustard seed parable speaks of the outward growth of Christianity and the existence of a threat as seen in the birds, but the leaven speaks of what happens now that it is there. The inward development of false doctrine perpetrated by those who have not been changed by the gospel they supposedly proclaim.
- 2) Could it not be that Jesus is here identifying that very truth that we will face in this day and time of Grace?
- 3) Do these parables make this verse a little easier to understand? **II Timothy 3:1-5**

4. Tonight's Take Away:

- a. How should the Church respond to what Jesus has revealed?