

## The Parable of the Mustard Seed and Yeast

October 6, 2016

### Matthew 13:31-33 NASB

31 He presented another parable to them, saying, "THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED, WHICH A MAN TOOK AND SOWED IN HIS FIELD;

32 AND THIS IS SMALLER THAN ALL OTHER SEEDS, BUT WHEN IT IS FULL GROWN, IT IS LARGER THAN THE GARDEN PLANTS AND BECOMES A TREE, SO THAT THE BIRDS OF THE AIR COME AND NEST IN ITS BRANCHES."

33 HE SPOKE ANOTHER PARABLE TO THEM, "THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE LEAVEN, WHICH A WOMAN TOOK AND HID IN THREE PECKS OF FLOUR UNTIL IT WAS ALL LEAVENED."

### LESSONS FROM THE MUSTARD SEED AND YEAST:

1. NOTHING, AND NO ONE, IS TOO LITTLE OR TOO SMALL FOR GOD TO USE MIGHTILY.

### John 6:5-13 NASB

5 Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?"

6 THIS HE WAS SAYING TO TEST HIM, FOR HE HIMSELF KNEW WHAT HE WAS INTENDING TO DO.

7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, **FOR EVERYONE TO RECEIVE A LITTLE.**"

8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him,

9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, **BUT WHAT ARE THESE FOR SO MANY PEOPLE?**"

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

11 Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; **LIKEWISE ALSO OF THE FISH AS MUCH AS THEY WANTED.**

12 When they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost."

13 So they gathered them up, and **FILLED TWELVE BASKETS WITH FRAGMENTS FROM THE FIVE BARLEY LOAVES** which were left over by those who had eaten.

### 1 Kings 17:10-16 NASB

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, "Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink."

11 As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand."

12 But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and **BEHOLD, I AM GATHERING A FEW STICKS THAT I MAY GO IN AND PREPARE FOR ME AND MY SON, THAT WE MAY EAT IT AND DIE.**"

13 Then Elijah said to her, "**DO NOT FEAR; GO, DO AS YOU HAVE SAID, BUT MAKE ME A LITTLE BREAD CAKE FROM IT FIRST AND BRING IT OUT TO ME, AND AFTERWARD YOU MAY MAKE ONE FOR YOURSELF AND FOR YOUR SON.**"

14 "**FOR THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, 'THE BOWL OF FLOUR SHALL NOT BE EXHAUSTED, NOR SHALL THE JAR OF OIL BE EMPTY, UNTIL THE DAY THAT THE LORD SENDS RAIN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.'**"

15 **SO SHE WENT AND DID ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF ELIJAH, AND SHE AND HE AND HER HOUSEHOLD ATE FOR MANY DAYS.**

16 **THE BOWL OF FLOUR WAS NOT EXHAUSTED NOR DID THE JAR OF OIL BECOME EMPTY, ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF THE LORD WHICH HE SPOKE THROUGH ELIJAH.**

**1 Samuel 16:10-12 NASB**

10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "**THE LORD HAS NOT CHOSEN THESE.**"

11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the children?" And he said, "**THERE REMAINS YET THE YOUNGEST, AND BEHOLD, HE IS TENDING THE SHEEP.**" Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, "**ARISE, ANOINT HIM; FOR THIS IS HE.**"

**2 Corinthians 4:7 NASB**

7 **BUT WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS, SO THAT THE SURPASSING GREATNESS OF THE POWER WILL BE OF GOD AND NOT FROM OURSELVES.**

**Luke 10:19 NASB**

19 **BEHOLD, I HAVE GIVEN YOU AUTHORITY TO TREAD ON SERPENTS AND SCORPIONS, AND OVER ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY, AND NOTHING WILL INJURE YOU.**

**Mark 16:17-18 NASB**

17 **THESE SIGNS WILL ACCOMPANY THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED: IN MY NAME THEY WILL CAST OUT DEMONS, THEY WILL SPEAK WITH NEW TONGUES;**

18 **THEY WILL PICK UP SERPENTS, AND IF THEY DRINK ANY DEADLY POISON, IT WILL NOT HURT THEM; THEY WILL LAY HANDS ON THE SICK, AND THEY WILL RECOVER.**

**Ephesians 3:20 NASB**

20 **NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE ABUNDANTLY BEYOND ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK, ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT WORKS WITHIN US.**

## **2. GOD IS AT WORK EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T SEE OR DISCERN HIM.**

**John 3:8 NASB**

8 "**THE WIND BLOWS WHERE IT WISHES AND YOU HEAR THE SOUND OF IT, BUT DO NOT KNOW WHERE IT COMES FROM AND WHERE IT IS GOING; SO IS EVERYONE WHO IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT.**"

**Ecclesiastes 11:4-6 NASB**

4 He who watches the wind will not sow and he who looks at the clouds will not reap.

5 **JUST AS YOU DO NOT KNOW THE PATH OF THE WIND AND HOW BONES ARE FORMED IN THE WOMB OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN, SO YOU DO NOT KNOW THE ACTIVITY OF GOD WHO MAKES ALL THINGS.**

6 Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.

**2 Corinthians 5:6-8 NASB**

6 Therefore, **BEING ALWAYS OF GOOD COURAGE**, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord--

7 **FOR WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT--**

8 **WE ARE OF GOOD COURAGE**, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

**3. NEVER LIMIT WHAT GOD CAN DO, NEVER PRESUME TO KNOW HIS METHODS.**

**Isaiah 43:18-19 NASB**

18 **DO NOT CALL TO MIND THE FORMER THINGS, OR PONDER THINGS OF THE PAST.**

19 **BEHOLD, I WILL DO SOMETHING NEW, NOW IT WILL SPRING FORTH; WILL YOU NOT BE AWARE OF IT? I WILL EVEN MAKE A ROADWAY IN THE WILDERNESS, RIVERS IN THE DESERT.**

**1 Corinthians 2:9-11 NASB**

9 but just as it is written, "**THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.**"

10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

11 **FOR WHO AMONG MEN KNOWS THE THOUGHTS OF A MAN EXCEPT THE SPIRIT OF THE MAN WHICH IS IN HIM? EVEN SO THE THOUGHTS OF GOD NO ONE KNOWS EXCEPT THE SPIRIT OF GOD.**

**4. THE LIFE IS IN THE SEED, NOT IN THE ONE WHO SOWS.**

**Mark 4:26-27 NASB**

26 And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil;

27 **AND HE GOES TO BED AT NIGHT AND GETS UP BY DAY, AND THE SEED SPROUTS AND GROWS -- HOW, HE HIMSELF DOES NOT KNOW.**"

**Hebrews 4:9-12 NASB**

9 So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

10 **FOR THE ONE WHO HAS ENTERED HIS REST HAS HIMSELF ALSO RESTED FROM HIS WORKS, AS GOD DID FROM HIS.**

11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.

**12 FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWO-EDGED SWORD, AND PIERCING AS FAR AS THE DIVISION OF SOUL AND SPIRIT, OF BOTH JOINTS AND MARROW, AND ABLE TO JUDGE THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTIONS OF THE HEART.**

**Isaiah 55:9-12 NASB**

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

**11 SO WILL MY WORD BE WHICH GOES FORTH FROM MY MOUTH; IT WILL NOT RETURN TO ME EMPTY, WITHOUT ACCOMPLISHING WHAT I DESIRE, AND WITHOUT SUCCEEDING IN THE MATTER FOR WHICH I SENT IT.**

12 For you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

- 5. BE PATIENT AND WAIT ON GOD’S TIMING. GOD CAN AND DOES MOVE INSTANTLY, BUT THE WORK OF GOD IS ALSO LIKE A SEED GROWING OR YEAST SPREADING - IT TAKES TIME.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1 NASB**

**1 THERE IS AN APPOINTED TIME FOR EVERYTHING. AND THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERY EVENT UNDER HEAVEN.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:11 NASB**

**11 HE HAS MADE EVERYTHING APPROPRIATE IN ITS TIME.** He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

**Galatians 6:9 NASB**

**9 LET US NOT LOSE HEART IN DOING GOOD, FOR IN DUE TIME WE WILL REAP IF WE DO NOT GROW WEARY.**

- 6. GOD’S WORK IS ALWAYS FOR THE GOOD, THE PROVISION AND THE PROTECTION OF OTHERS, LIKE THE BIRDS NESTING IN THE BRANCHES.**

**Matthew 13:32 NASB**

**32 AND THIS IS SMALLER THAN ALL OTHER SEEDS, BUT WHEN IT IS FULL GROWN, IT IS LARGER THAN THE GARDEN PLANTS AND BECOMES A TREE, SO THAT THE BIRDS OF THE AIR COME AND NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.**"