

Parable of Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31, 32

Mark 4:30-32

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Texts:

Matthew 13:31, 32, He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.”

Mark 4:30-32, Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.”

Commentary:

I. The kingdom of God on earth began small and grew to cover the earth.

II. This is illustrated by a small mustard seed which grows into a considerable size, larger than other shrubs/herbs of its class.

III. The growth of both the mustard seed and the kingdom is gradual.

IV. Representations:

A. Small seed shows the obscure beginning of the kingdom of God on earth.

B. The ultimate size of the tree describes the final tremendous size to which the kingdom would grow.

C. The field is the world.

D. The sower is deity.

E. The seed is the word of God.

F. The mustard tree is the church, kingdom of God on earth, which gives a place of refuge for others, like huge shrubs give refuge to the birds.

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Questions

1. The _____ of _____ is like a _____
_____ which a man took and _____ in his
_____.

2. Although it is the _____ of all your _____, yet
when it _____, it is the largest of _____
_____ and becomes a _____, so that the
_____ of the _____ come and _____ in
its _____.

3. In this parable what is represented by: (a) seed _____

(b) size of full grown tree _____

(c) the field _____

(d) the sower _____
