



“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.**” With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.” (Mark 4:30-34 - NIV)

Prayer: O God, Protector of all the faithful, You alone make strong; You alone make holy. Show me Your mercy and forgive my sins day by day. Guide me through my earthly life that I do not lose the things You have prepared for me in heaven; through Jesus Christ my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



Order of Worship – The Common Service Without L.S. – pg. 15

- Greetings by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 222**

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Ezekiel 17:22-24-A Tender Sprig Becomes Great
PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 92 (Lit. pg. 101 – Sung by Monica McInnis)

Second Lesson– II Corinthians 5:1-10-God’s Eternal House

Gospel Lesson– Mark 4:26-34-The Seed of God’s Word Grows

The Apostle’s Creed – (Pg. 19)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 382**

Sermon Text: Mark 4:30-34

Sermon Theme: The Kingdom of God is Like a Mustard Seed?

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord’s Prayer (Traditional Version)

Hymn **C.W. 256**

Collect / Prayer (pg. 25)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 323**



SERMON TEXT: Mark 4:30-34 (See also Matthew 13:31-32; Luke 13:18-19)

Vs. 30 - Again He (Jesus) said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?"

Vs. 31 - It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground.

Vs. 32 - 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."

Vs. 33 - With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand.

Vs. 34 - He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

GREETING: Jesus says: heaven & Earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. (Matt. 24:35)

Do you like mustard on your hotdog or brat or hamburger?

If yes, what type of mustard do you like – brown mustard, yellow mustard, spicy mustard?

Mustard seeds can be used to flavor meat and in the preparation of pickles and even salad dressing such as honey mustard dressing.

When the leaves are tender, they can be eaten.

Mustard has various vitamins, and a mustard paste can be applied to relieve pain.

There is a mustard plant called *White Mustard* with yellow flowers and grows to a height of 2-3 feet.

There is a mustard plant called *Black Mustard* which also has yellow flowers and can grow to 6 ft.

In Mark chapter 4 Jesus is speaking in parables.

A simple definition for a parable is: "An earthly story with a heavenly meaning."

The parable that we are looking at today is *The Parable of the Mustard Seed*.

Jesus begins this parable by asking:

Vs. 30 - "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?"

Jesus then answers this question by saying:

Vs. 31 – "It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground."

We might scratch our head and ask: "*How can the Kingdom of God be like a mustard Seed?*"

Jesus tells us that the Mustard seed is the smallest seed that you plant in the ground.

I have never seen a mustard seed, but I have seen carrot seeds, and carrot seeds are small.

Jesus then states:

Vs. 32 - 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."

Apparently there is a mustard plant in the land of Israel that grows to be as tall as 12-15 feet tall.

It is sturdy and strong enough that birds of the air can perch in the mustard plant and find shade.

The birds can come and find a place of safety and protection from the hot sun.

So what does this parable mean?

If we look at the beginning of Mark chapter four we hear the parable of the Sower and the seed, and we learn that the seed is The Word of God.

And so we see from this Parable of the mustard seed, that as insignificant as the Word of God may appear on the outside, the Word of God produces results.

It produces a plant that is large enough to find shade and peace. It produces the Kingdom of God – All believers, not an earthly building.

We are reminded of how powerful the Word of God is when we look at Genesis chapters 1 & 2 and look at Creation. In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

God said: Let there be light, and there was light.

God said: Let there be the Sun – Moon & Stars – and they were there. Just by the Word of God, the Big Dipper and the Southern Cross were put in their place in the heavens.

God said: let the earth produce vegetation and plants and birds and animals, and they were all there.

That is how powerful the Word of God is. It is that same Word of God which created saving faith in your heart. The Word of God produced specific faith in your heart in the Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ.

God made you part of the Kingdom of God through Faith in Christ Jesus when you were brought to faith in Jesus. (Romans 10:17) As a child of God you can look forward to that place called heaven, where there is no more sin, or death, or pain or sin, (Rev. 21:1-7) and you will receive your new glorified bodies in Christ Jesus your Lord. (Philippians 3:20-21)

Right now, we are part of the Kingdom of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Even though we are part of God's Kingdom, we still live in a world that has all types of trouble and sorrow and chaos, but one day we will see God with our own eyes as Job tells us in Job 19:25-27. "I know that my Redeemer lives"

Sometimes people like to ask the question, "Why does Jesus speak in Parables?"

Jesus answered that question earlier in Mark chapter 4 when He says to the 12 and others:

“The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that,”“they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!””

In other words: the unbelievers are not able to understand or believe what Jesus is speaking about.

We thank the Lord that He has brought us to faith in Him so that we can look with confidence to the day when we will see with our own eyes and experience with our new glorified bodies the shade and peace which the Kingdom of God gives us in Christ Jesus our Risen Savior. AMEN

THEME: The Kingdom of God is Like: A Mustard Seed?

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Ga 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Mt 13:31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of **mustard seed**, which a man took and sowed in his field:

Mt 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have **faith as a grain of mustard seed**, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Mr 4:31 It is like **a grain of mustard seed**, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:

Lu 13:19 It is like **a grain of mustard seed**, which a man took and cast into his garden; and it grew and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.

Lu 17:6 And the Lord said If ye had **faith as a grain of mustard seed**, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.
(KJV)

Matthew 13:8 - Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 He who has ears, let him hear.”

10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

11 He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 12 Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. 15 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes,

hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. 17 For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

To understand the Parables of Jesus is not a matter of being so intelligent, but that the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds as believers to understand and believe in the Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 2:14 - 14 But de <de> the natural qucikov <psuchikos> man anyrwpov <anthropos> receiveth decomai <dechomai> not ou <ou> the things o <ho> of the Spirit pneuma <pneuma> of God yeov <theos>: for gar <gar> they are esti <esti> foolishness mwria <moria> unto him autov <autos>: neither kai <kai> ou <ou> can dunamai <dunamai> he know ginwskw <ginosko> them, because oti <hoti> they are spiritually pneumatikwv <pneumatikos> discerned anakrinw <anakrino> (KJV)

14 The unspiritual man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (RSV)

1Co 12:3 - Wherefore I give you to understand that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that **no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.**