

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM:

Lesson 11.

OBJECTIVE: To show man's dependency upon God, and the powerful conclusion that can be wrought from small beginnings, with God as Helper!

PARABLES: *The Parable of the Seed Growing:* Mark 4:26-29
The Parable of the Mustard Seed: Matt.13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32

Luke 13:18-19.

The Parable of the Leaven: Matt.13:33;
Luke 13:20-21

I. THE SETTINGS:

- A. All three parables were told at the same time; the first is recorded only by Mark, the second by Matthew, Mark and Luke, and the third by Matthew and Luke. Matthew and Mark picture the circumstances leading up to the telling of the series of parables. What are these circumstances?

- B. Who then were the direct recipients of these parables?

II. THE CENTRAL TEACHINGS:

Each of the three parables teaches a slightly different lesson concerning the kingdom. ***Briefly,*** what would you say is the central teaching of:

- A. The first parable?

B. The second?

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C. The third?

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III. UNDERSTANDING THE PARABLES:

Each of the three parables is so short as to almost be considered a proverb instead of a parable. We will deal with only the major thought of each.

A. Mark 4:27 seems to be the key of this parable. Please explain this verse. _____

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B. Verse 28 shows the "natural order" of plant growth. Is there a "**NATURAL ORDER**" of Spiritual growth?

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C. The second parable shows tremendous growth from small beginnings. Show that this is true from God's Word concerning the Kingdom! _____

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D. The third parable shows the contagious aspect of the kingdom ... the leaven eventually influencing all into which it was placed. What does the Bible teach concerning the influence a Christian should have on others? _____

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E. The mustard seed grew from something very tiny to something large and powerful. But this took time! Is there an applicable principle here for us today? _____

F. Paul mentioned, "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." Where is that passage?

G. Does this parable teach that we should just sit back and let God do **everything** to convert people? Will that work? _____

Additional Notes: