

A Mustard Seed

Mark 4:30-32

30 Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it?

31 It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth;

32 but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.";

- **Matthew 13:31, 32**

31. Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

- **Luke 13:18, 19.**

- 18 Then He said, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it?

- 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches."

Mustard plant flowering



Mustard tree/Salvadora Persica



Luke 17:6

- *...if you have faith as a mustard seed you may say to this mulberry tree “Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea” and it would obey you.*

Mat 17:20

- *...if you have faith as a mustard seed you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here there’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*

- Matthew 13:31 *The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.*
- Mark 4:30 *To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it.*
- Luke 13:18 *What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it?*

- In the multitude that listened to Christ's teaching there were many Pharisees. These noted contemptuously how few of His hearers acknowledged Him as the Messiah. And they questioned with themselves how this unpretending teacher could exalt Israel to universal dominion. Without riches, power, or honor, how was He to establish the new kingdom? Christ read their thoughts and answered them: "Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?"
- E G White – Christ's Object Lessons, p. 76

Matthew 20: 26-28

- 26. *Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever ~~desires to become great~~ among you let him be your servant.*
- 27. *And who so ever desire to be first among you, let him be your slave*
—
- 28. *just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve , and to give His life a ransom for many*

Mark 9:35

- *...If anyone desire to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.*

Mustard tree berries



- As Jesus spoke this parable, the mustard plant could be seen far and near, lifting itself above the grass and grain, and waving its branches lightly in the air. Birds flitted from twig to twig, and sang amid the leafy foliage. Yet the seed from which sprang this giant plant was among the least of all seeds. At first it sent up a tender shoot, but it was of strong vitality, and grew and flourished until it reached its present great size. So the kingdom of Christ in its beginning seemed humble and insignificant

- E G White Christ's Object Lessons, p.72

1 Cor 1: 25, 27

- v 25. *Because the foolishness of God is wiser than man, and the weakness of God is stronger than man,*
- v 27. *But God had chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise and God had chosen the weak things of this world to confound the things which are might*

- The germ in the seed grows by the unfolding of the life-principle which God has implanted. Its development depends upon no human power. So it is with the kingdom of Christ. It is a new creation. Its principles of development are the opposite of those that rule the kingdoms of this world. Earthly governments prevail by physical force; they maintain their dominion by war; but the founder of the new kingdom is the Prince of Peace. The Holy Spirit represents worldly kingdoms under the symbol of fierce beasts of prey; but Christ is “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29.

- E G White – Christ’s Object Lessons p. 77

- ...In His plan of government there is no employment of brute force to compel the conscience. The Jews looked for the kingdom of God to be established in the same way as the kingdoms of the world. To promote righteousness they resorted to external measures. They devised methods and plans. But Christ implants a principle. By implanting truth and righteousness, He counterworks error and sin.

- E G White – Christ's Object Lessons p. 77

Jesus Christ

- *Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
- Matthew 4:17

John the Baptist

- *Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*
 - Matthew 3:2.

- So the work of grace in the heart is small in its beginning. A word is spoken, a ray of light is shed into the soul, an influence is exerted that is the beginning of the new life; and who can measure its results?
 - E G White – Christ's Object Lessons, p. 78

Mark 4:31-32

- *31 It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth;*
- *32 but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.*

- Not only is the growth of Christ's kingdom illustrated by the parable of the mustard seed, but in every stage of its growth the experience represented in the parable is repeated. For His church in every generation God has a special truth and a special work. The truth that is hid from the worldly wise and prudent is revealed to the child-like and humble. It calls for self-sacrifice. It has battles to fight and victories to win.
- E G White – Christ's Object Lessons, p. 77

- By the great men of the world and by a world-conforming church, they are opposed and despised. See John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, standing alone to rebuke the pride and formalism of the Jewish nation. See the first bearers of the gospel into Europe. How obscure, how hopeless, seemed the mission of Paul and Silas, the two tentmakers, as they with their companions took ship at Troas for Philippi. See “Paul the aged,” in chains, preaching Christ in the stronghold of the Caesars. See the little communities of slaves and peasants in conflict with the heathenism of imperial Rome...

- E G White – Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 78

- ... See Martin Luther withstanding that mighty church which is the masterpiece of the world's wisdom. See him holding fast God's word against emperor and pope, declaring, "Here I take my stand; I can not do otherwise. God be my help." See John Wesley preaching Christ and His righteousness in the midst of formalism, sensualism, and infidelity. See one burdened with the woes of the heathen world, pleading for the privilege of carrying to them Christ's message of love. Hear the response of ecclesiasticism: "Sit down, young man. When God wants to convert the heathen, He will do it without your help or mine."

- E G White – Christ's Object Lessons, p. 79

- As in earlier ages, the special truths for this time are found, not with the ecclesiastical authorities, but with men and women who are not too learned or too wise to believe the word of God.
 - E G White – Christ's Object Lessons, p. 79

- “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called; but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty. And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are” (1 Corinthians 1:26-28); “that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:5).

- E G White – Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 79

- And in this last generation the parable of the mustard seed is to reach a signal and triumphant fulfillment. The little seed will become a tree. The last message of warning and mercy is to go to “every nation and kindred and tongue” (Revelation 14:6-14), “to take out of them a people for His name” (Acts 15:14; Revelation 18:1). And the earth shall be lightened with His glory.

- E G White – Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 79

Principles found in Parable

- The kingdom of God it always starts small;
- The kingdom of God it happens from inside out;
- The kingdom of God develops, grows to maturity.

Hebrews 11: 13-16

- 13. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embrace them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- 14. For these who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.
- 15. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had the opportunity to return.
- 16. But now they desire a better, that is a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.