

## Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

### G . The Second Tour of Galilee

#### 8. Five More Kingdom Parables

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #094

Base Text: MT 13.31-33, 44-50 (Parallel Text: MK 4.30-32)

31 He told them another parable: ( The Mustard Seed)

<sup>M</sup>"What can we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>MT</sup>The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds <sup>M</sup>you plant in the ground, <sup>MT</sup>yet as it continues growing, it becomes the largest of garden plants and turns into a tree, <sup>M</sup>with such big branches <sup>MT</sup>that the birds come and make their perch in its branches." (Ps. 104.12; Ez. 17.23, 31.6; Dan. 4.12)

33 He told them still another parable: (The Yeast)

*"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour, until it worked it's way all through the dough."*

(The Parable of the Treasure Hidden in a Field)

44 *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure which had been well hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his great joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."*

(The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price)

45 *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who was ever searching for fine pearls. 46 Because he found one of great value, he went away and sold off everything he possessed, and then bought it."*

(The Parable of the Net)

47 *"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. 48 When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. 49 This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous 50 and will surely throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Somewhere in Galilee, Near the Sea of Galilee
Timeline	May (Month Sixteen)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
	G. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tour of Galilee
Title	8. Five More Kingdom Parables

## Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

### COMMENT:

Jesus followed up the first two extended parables with five brief ones. Each of them began with the phrase, **"The kingdom of heaven is like..."** All of these powerful stories highlight a different feature of living in God's kingdom as a servant of Jesus. Taken together, they enable us to see the surpassing greatness of living forever under God's reign.

The "mustard seed" parable reminded Jesus' enemies, the Pharisees, who had already decided to kill him, that though the kingdom began as a tiny seed in the conception, birth, and life of Jesus, it would eventually grow into a massive living organism including billions of people. You cannot measure the size of a living being in its beginning--you must wait for it to grow into maturity to discover its true size, scope, and nature. They would regret underestimating him.

The second parable of the "yeast" is the briefest of the parables. It is similar to the main point of the "mustard seed" tale, but distinct in its message. Yeast is tiny, too--smaller than a mustard seed. Yet it multiplies to influence the totality of its environment. 30 kilograms of flour is a huge portion. Yet, a tiny amount of yeast multiplies to eventually cause the entire portion of flour to be affected by its presence. The kingdom, too, will grow in influence in the world until every person--Christian and non-Christian alike--will be affected by its presence.

The parables of the "treasure hid in a field" and the "pearl of great price" have basically the same message. The kingdom is a place of irresistible, untiring joy, because it involves gaining everything good and wonderful in Jesus, and giving up what we are unable to keep, anyway. Use this link to access a modern, expanded version of the parable of the "Treasure Hidden in the Field" for fuller consideration of this wonderful teaching from Jesus.

Finally, the parable of the dragnet warned the people that there is no escaping the coming of the Kingdom in the end. Every person will face judgement concerning the state of their relationship with the King of the universe. There is no way around coming face to face with our personal responsibility and accountability to Jesus as our Creator, Lord, and Judge.

These five parables showed that rather than being a peripheral, unimportant force in this world, the Kingdom is actually the most powerful, pervasive force, structure and organism the Trinity has made. We all live or die forever according to the state of our relationship with King Jesus. Furthermore, entering into citizenship in the kingdom, and growing in eternal value and worth through following Jesus is the most joyful, wonderful way to live that an omnipotent, omniscient God has been able to devise. Missing out on life in the kingdom is eternal tragedy of the most intense kind!

### APPLICATION:

The values, life-style, priorities, and power of the Trinity is what makes the Kingdom such an awesome, glorious realm in which to live. God intends the culture and atmosphere of his own dwelling place...his kingdom...to become our own identity and dominating influence.

*To what degree does this describe you?*