

# sermon study guide

Speaker: Pastor Henry Schorr

Date: September 26/27 2020

Sermon Title: The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like... Part 4: When Little Becomes Much

## IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Share a time when you were disappointed after having high hopes or when your experience exceeded your expectations.
2. With all that's going on in the world today how easy or difficult is it for you to perceive God's kingdom at work? Why?

## UP - PURSUE GOD

*Read Matthew 13:31-35*

3. What truths about the kingdom of heaven are present in both the parable of the seed and the yeast? How do these truths both challenge and encourage you?

*Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-27*

4. Why does God tend to use the insignificant, ordinary, and/or unexpected to accomplish His will? Share examples that come to mind from the Bible or people in your life.

## OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. In what areas of life are you tempted to rely on your own strength? How do you recognize it when you do? How can you turn this about to rely on God?
6. Where is God calling you to be yeast or to plant a mustard seed? In what ways do you see the power of God working through you?

### **For Personal Reflection/Prayer:**

Jesus came as a baby, was raised by peasants, collected unimpressive people to join him in His work, and said He could do nothing apart from His reliance on the Father. How do you stack up on the 'reliance' meter of depending on God alone in your vocation or ministry? Ask God to help you rely on His strength.

For Daily Reflections from CSC, visit <https://www.cschurch.ca/daily-reflections/>

## THE WORD (NIV)

### **Matthew 13:31-35**

31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 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 come and perch in its branches."

33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

34 Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. 35 So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

"I will open my mouth in parables,  
I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

### **1 Corinthians 1:26-27**

26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

*This week's writers: Gene Gibbs, Edi Dyqert, Deb Matiko and Jared Harrison*

# sermon study summary

**The Kingdom of Heaven is Like – Part 4: When Little Becomes Much**  
**September 26/27, 2020**  
**Pastor Henry**

In general, the higher your expectations are of something or someone the greater the chance that you will be disappointed, be it with work, marriage, vacations, or even God. Have you ever wondered if 'the Kingdom of God is here', why when you look around the world does it seem that the enemy is winning? The disciples of Jesus could have easily wondered the same thing when they looked at the Roman oppression about them. Jesus wasn't following their script of how they viewed the Old Testament prophecies. He saw their confusion and in using these parables He better explained the Kingdom of God.

Jesus continues in Matthew 5:31-32 by telling the parable of the mustard seed. At the time, the mustard seed was seen as the smallest of seeds and was used as a measure of comparison with other small things. Jesus was saying that the Kingdom of God may look small now, but that it will grow huge (Psalm 72:8) by means of hearts humbled and surrendered to Him. God often chooses the small and insignificant to accomplish great things (1 Cor 1:26-27, Judges 6:15). Our extraordinary God delights in working through and extending grace to the humble person who cries out daily for His wisdom and direction. Conversely, He resists the proud and self-assured who rely on their own abilities. Like the mustard seed, God's Kingdom grew from Jesus to the disciples to all believers today. Earthly kingdoms have risen and fallen but the Kingdom of God has continued to grow to be the 'largest of plants'.

Jesus follows this up with the parable of the yeast (Matt 5:33). Even though the yeast cannot be seen it transforms the moist flour into dough that is ready for baking. Such is the Kingdom. It cannot be seen spreading through one life influencing another. Christ transforms you from the inside out. You pass that on to another. Where is God calling you to be yeast or to plant a mustard seed? Whatever your weakness, insecurity, or fears may be – never underestimate how God wants to use your life to influence and change the eternal trajectory of someone else's life.

Are you feeling inadequate in the varied situations in your life? Do you think you have little to offer? By failing to include God in your life or by trying to do it all on your own power that feeling can be the source of great discouragement. Or it may be the beginning of a whole new adventure with God should you involve Him in your life and observe Him do things in and through you that you could never do in your own strength. Jesus longs for His Kingdom to come to earth (Matt 6:9) but He has chosen us, through our life and prayers, to accomplish this. Do you hear God calling you to step out to do something? Do you feel inadequate to do it? Surrender that fear to Him in prayer and step out in obedience. When you do, you become yeast or plant a mustard seed. Little becomes much when placed in the Masters' hands.