

# THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

*Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened (Mt. 13:33)*

## I. WHAT IS THE MAIN POINT OF THIS PARABLE?

- A. The point of this parable is clearly that the then coming kingdom (the church) would begin small; i.e. from a purely human perspective, but would quickly demonstrate considerable growth.
- B. Stated another way: the church would start small and soon get much bigger, just like a mustard seed.
  - 1. Mustard seed – at the outset – looks like this:



- 2. But it does not stay that way for long: “Several varieties of mustard have notably small seed, and under favorable conditions grow in a few months into very tall herbs – 10 to 12 ft” (ISBE).

## II. WAS JESUS RIGHT?

- A. Certainly He was! God does not make mistakes (cf. Rom. 9:5).
  - 1. Ax. 1:15; Ax. 2:36-41, 47; 4:1-4; 6:1, 7; 8:1-12; 9:20-22; 21:20 {muriás #3461 – myriads}.
- B. The kingdom started small (just like a mustard seed), but nothing could stop it from growing:
  - 1. Threats and prison and beatings could not stop it from growing – Ax. 4:13-21; 5:17-42; 8:1-4; 22:4; 2 Tim. 4:14.
  - 2. Hard times could not retard its growth – 1 Cor. 4:11-13; 2 Cor. 11:23-33; Ax 20:17-24.
  - 3. Killing saints could not stop the growth – Ax. 7:51ff; 12:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

## III. SECONDARY LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS PARABLE:

- A. The kingdom {the church} is designed to grow and growth is expected.
- B. Jesus did not subscribe to the attitude of “*We’re too small, we cannot make a difference*”
- C. The kingdom of heaven is to be a distinctive kingdom that abides within proper doctrine.
  - (a) One does not get apples from mustard seed; neither does one get carnal “Christians” and carnival/Burger King local churches from proper doctrine – Col. 3:17; etc.
  - (b) Mustard seed does not produce: MDR error, Lord’s Supper error, Unscriptural elders error, institutionalism error, fellowship error, etc.