

LESSON 17

MUSTARD SEED & LEAVEN

The Call to Hear and Obey | [Matthew 13:31-33](#)

OPENING QUESTIONS: OUR TEXT IN CONTEXT

- The Parables of Mustard Seed and the Leaven are twin parables. What do they have in common, and what do you make of this?
- Do you see anything strange or surprising in the human activity in both parables? What is your take on this?

THINKING QUESTIONS: INTERPRETING THE TEXT

1. What is the literary context of the Parables of the Mustard Seed and Leaven?

Hint: Matthew was written and used in the first century to make disciples to Jesus and his teaching. How do Matthew 13 and verses 31-33 in particular fit into this arrangement.

2. Most parables make their point by means of sharp contrast. What is being contrasted in both our parables? What does this tell us about the kingdom of heaven?
3. What is leaven, literally, and how does it function as a stock biblical image? How did Jesus give leaven a new twist in the parable?

How does this challenge ready-made assumptions about how and where the kingdom of heaven is at work in the life and ministry of Jesus and his disciples.

4. Each of our twin parables features a dynamic process with a rather subversive twist. Something like an all-or-nothing takeover. There is nothing static or boring here.

Please describe the process in each parable. What does each process reveal about the kingdom of heaven?

MATTHEW: THE DISCIPLEMAKER MANUAL

Sermon Series
Bible Study

PASSAGE FOCUS

Prayerfully reflect on the Twin Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Leaven in Matthew 13:31-33. Read it as a personal word from God to you. What stands out? Any bizarre twists or unusual behavior? What do you think is the main emphasis of each parable and both of them together?

STUDY GUIDE

LISTEN

Listen to this passage's sermon before you begin the study. If you missed it, you can watch the recording on the CPC Website or Youtube Channel.

REFLECT

Take some time to read through the passage and reflect on the questions.

SHARE

Answer the questions and share with your Life Group.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: OBEYING THE WORD

1. Regarding the 'subversive twist' in each parable (discussed in question 4 above):

What are some implications for personal discipleship?

For Christian community in the Church?

For ministry and mission to the world?

2. People generally get anxious and upset when they are in situations that they cannot control. Most of us don't chase storms? For the same reason, it takes great courage to entrust ourselves entirely to the kingdom of God.

How does this resonate with our two parables?

Can share about experience in your life when you had to go through something way beyond your control?

How did you cope? What lessons did you learn?

How might this help you surrender more of your life to the kingdom and kingship of Christ?

3. Revival is disruptive. The kingdom is the ultimate revival. Like a storm, it starts small. But as it grows, it challenges our theology, spirituality, schedule, and institutions. Are you sure you want revival? Please share your thoughts.