

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.
James 1:1-12

THE PARABLES OF THE MUSTARD SEED AND YEAST Matthew 13:31-35

Main Thought: In the parables of the mustard seed and yeast we find hope to remain faithful to the Lord's purposes because the kingdom will start small and end with comprehensive impact.

1. THE PARABLE OF THE _____ SEED.
 - 1) The _____ of the parable.
 - 2) The _____ of the parable.
 - (1) The Kingdom will start _____.
 - (2) The Kingdom ends very _____.
 - 3) The _____ of the parable.
 - (1) There is _____.
 - (2) God is faithful and will accomplish His _____.
 - (3) We are to be _____.
2. THE PARABLE OF THE _____.
 - 1) The _____ of the parable.
 - 2) The _____ of the parable.
 - (1) The kingdom will start _____.
 - (2) The kingdom will effect _____ and _____ transformation.
 - 3) The _____ of the parable.
 - (1) The kingdom of God exerts its influence from _____, not _____.
 - (2) The effect of the kingdom of God will be _____.
3. JESUS' SPEAKING IN PARABLES WAS A FULFILLMENT OF _____. (Matt. 13:34-35; Psalm 78:2)

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read Matthew 13:31-35.

2. Each of these parables starts with the same phrase. What is it? What clues to the meaning of the parables does it give us?

3. To what does the kingdom of heaven (God) refer? What is the mystery of the kingdom that Jesus is revealing in these kingdom parables in Matthew 13? (Matt. 13:11)

4. How is the present aspect of the kingdom of heaven like a mustard seed?

5. What might the birds represent?
(See Judges 9:15; Ezek. 17:22-24; 31:3-14; Dan. 4:7-23)

6. What are the lessons for us in the parable of the mustard seed? What verses can you think of which also emphasize these lessons?

7. How is the kingdom of heaven like yeast (or leaven)?

8. Yeast (Leaven) is often linked with evil in the Scriptures. Read 1 Corinthians 5:6 and Galatians 5:9. What does a little bit of yeast do? Do you think Jesus is using yeast in a good or evil sense in this passage? Why?

9. Is Jesus making the same point with both parables or is there a subtle difference in the emphasis of each parable? If there is a difference, what is it?

10. What are the lessons for us in the parable of the yeast? What verses can you think of which also emphasize these lessons?

11. According to Matthew 13:35, Jesus speaking in parables was a fulfillment of prophecy. What did Matthew say was contained in the parables? What hidden things have you discovered in the parables in Matthew 13 so far?