

# Matthew 13:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

## Analysis

The parable 'The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed' emphasizes the kingdom's growth from tiny beginnings to vast influence. The mustard seed, 'least of all seeds,' produces a plant large enough for birds to nest—image of disproportionate growth. This teaches that the kingdom's insignificant start (Jesus and twelve disciples) would grow into a worldwide movement providing shelter and blessing.

## Historical Context

Mustard seeds were proverbially small (about 1mm), yet produced plants 8-12 feet tall. Jesus began with humble origins—born in a stable, raised in despised Nazareth, followed by working-class disciples. Yet the kingdom would grow to fill the earth (Daniel 2:35).

## Related Passages

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does this parable encourage you when God's work seems small?
2. What does the kingdom's growth pattern teach about God's methods?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἄλλην	παραβολὴν	παρέθηκεν	αὐτῷ·	λέγων,	Ὄμοία	ἐστὶν
Another	parable	put he forth	unto them	saying	like	is
G243	G3850	G3908	G846	G3004	G3664	G2076
ἡ	βασιλεία	τῶν	οὐρανῶν	κόκκῳ	σινάπεως	ὅν
G3588	The kingdom	G3588	of heaven	to a grain	of mustard seed	which
G932			G3772	G2848	G4615	G3739
λαβὼν	ἄνθρωπος	ἔσπειρεν	ἐν	τῷ	ἀγρῷ	αὐτῷ·
took	a man	and sowed	in	G3588	field	unto them
G2983	G444	G4687	G1722	G68	G846	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 17:20** (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

**Matthew 13:24** (Kingdom): Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

**Luke 17:6** (Parallel theme): And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

**Luke 20:9** (Parallel theme): Then began he to speak to the people this parable; A certain man planted a vineyard, and let it forth to husbandmen, and went into a far country for a long time.

