

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

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

Additional Cross-References

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.

