

The New Testament Church
Kingdom Rising #2 – *Renew your Mind*
July 30, 2023

I With all that is going on... *we will be examining the kingdom parables of Jesus in Matthew 13*

- A. If politics are the consequences and not causes, *where are our priorities?*
 - 1. Proverbs 4:18 – **What God has saved us to is greater than what He has saved us from!**
 - 2. Matthew 16:18 – **God is preparing His Ekklesia for victory over the gates of hell!**
 - 3. Hebrews 12:26-29 – **God is shaking and exposing evil as His Kingdom rises!**
- B. Re-claim the vital importance of the heart – the soul – that shapes the culture
 - 1. We must begin by dethroning a love of wealth, pleasure, power and evil in our hearts!
 - 2. This can only be done through the cross of Christ which is symbolized in this parable
- C. Jesus taught in parables... (Mt. 13:10-17) because the Church is the womb of the Kingdom!
 - 1. So hidden truths (pictures) would expose *those who are not really seeking His Kingdom*
 - 2. Isaiah 6:8-13 – they *expose the condition of the heart* – blessed if we “see them”

II Matthew 13:31-32 – Parable of the Mustard Seed

- A. Here is another parable dealing with farming... (see also Mark 4:30-31 and Luke 13:19)
 - 1. It is a **specific kind of seed**, chosen to make a contrasting or proportional truth
 - 2. The seed is very **small in comparison to its influence** (eventual size)
 - 3. A direct application can be made to the operation of our minds (channels, canals, grow ideas)
 - a. Ideas “grow” and become *patterns* – syllogisms of logic – premise to conclusion
 - b. Logic (the Word – complete thought) was a discipline in education throughout our history
 - c. Today the process is often hidden and the premises are concealed
 - 4. Jesus also uses a mustard seed when speaking about **faith** (confidence - Matthew 17:20)
 - a. The “little faith” meant *unapplied or improper use of* – unable to deliver a child
 - b. “*if you had faith as a mustard seed*” meaning small faith in Him is very influential
- B. The symbols of the parable
 - 1. What is sown is a *grain of mustard seed*
 - a. Col. 2:8 – you can be a prisoner of war in your mind through false reasoning
 - b. But the mustard seed (truth) is small in comparison to its **kingdom influence!**
 - 2. The seed is sown in *your field (or garden)* – closest garden is our mind – seed of the Kingdom
 - a. Each of us is given the garden of our minds where **we are to plant seeds**
 - 1. Kingdom truths offset the weeds (lies, accusations, and a victim)

Carnal thought pattern	Kingdom truth	Biblical principle
<i>(I am entitled to happiness, health, etc.)</i>	Work is a godly enterprise	<i>Character</i>
<i>(I am a victim of my past and others)</i>	We are to accept responsibility	<i>Stewardship</i>
<i>(It is not my fault)</i>	You can control yourself from within	<i>Self-Government</i>
<i>(God does what I say in Jesus’ name)</i>	We serve God and sow seeds	<i>Growth</i>
<i>(The devil and evil rules the world)</i>	God rules the world	<i>Sovereignty</i>
<i>(I cannot stand against the crowd)</i>	You are accountable to God	<i>Individuality</i>
<i>(I cannot agree with anyone)</i>	Unity is internal, action is external	<i>Covenant</i>

- 2. Renewing the mind requires reflection and application (2 Cor. 3:18; Ro. 12:2)
 - b. When embracing the Kingdom, we are not worried how small the seed is initially
- 3. When grown, *larger than other garden plants* - **designed to influence generationally**
- 4. The *purpose* of this tree - *The birds of the air come and make nests in its branches*
 - a. The tree grows wide – pattern of thinking - often horizontal
 - b. The tree allows birds of all kinds to build nests under its shelter (no fear of opposing ideas)
 - c. Birds are symbols of all kinds of people and ideologies – not all godly or edifying
 - d. **A Kingdom idea can shelter even opposing ideologies** – demonstrating love