



# THE PARABLES

A 12-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

## Week 3 – The Growth of the Kingdom (Sunday, May 24, 2026) *Small Beginnings, Big Impact*

### Introductory Remarks

The Kingdom of God often begins in ways that appear small, weak, or insignificant. In the Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast, Jesus presents how God works through humble beginnings to produce extraordinary results. A tiny mustard seed grows into a large tree, and a small amount of yeast quietly transforms an entire batch of dough. These parables remind us that spiritual growth and Kingdom impact are often gradual rather than immediate or dramatic. **The central theme of this lesson is faith in God.** Without faith it is impossible to please God and He delights in using faithful obedience, small acts of service, and ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary purposes; an observation clearly demonstrated in both the Old and New Testaments. In a culture obsessed with visibility, speed, and measurable success, Jesus teaches that true Kingdom growth frequently happens quietly and steadily over time. We are called to trust God's process, even when results are not immediately visible.

### Lesson Outline

- Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31–32)
- Yeast (Matthew 13:33)

**Key idea:** God's Kingdom often starts small but grows powerfully through faith and obedience.

1. Read the following passages and comment on the role of trust and faith in each.
  - a. Proverbs 3:5-6
  - b. Hebrews 11, with specific emphasis on verses 1 and 6
  - c. James 2:14-26
2. What do the Mustard Seed and Yeast parables teach us about how God works differently than the world expects?
3. Why are we often impatient with spiritual growth in ourselves, others, and even the Church?
4. How does social media and modern culture pressure us to value "big" results over faithful consistency?
5. What small act of obedience might God be calling you to trust Him with right now?





### Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

### James 2:14-26 (NIV)

#### Faith and Deeds

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. <sup>19</sup> You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

<sup>20</sup> You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless<sup>[a]</sup>? <sup>21</sup> Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. <sup>23</sup> And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,”<sup>[b]</sup> and he was called God’s friend. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

<sup>25</sup> In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? <sup>26</sup> As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

### Matthew 13:31-33 (NIV)

#### The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

<sup>31</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup> He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds<sup>[a]</sup> of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

### Hebrews 11:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.

<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. <sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.”<sup>[a]</sup> For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

