

The image features a white background with green leaves and branches framing the top and sides. The leaves are vibrant green and have serrated edges. The text is centered in a dark green, serif font.

# Kingdom Growth

Matthew 13:31-33

# Introduction

- Given the overall responses to Jesus ranging from “using” Him to misunderstanding to outright rejection, is there something going wrong?
- Is this in accord with God’s plan? If so, just what will the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven look like?
- Jesus’ parables describe and encourage disciples (then and now) what to expect.
- Wheat and weeds describe as sons of the Kingdom and sons of the evil one will be in the world together until the end of the

## **From Seed to Tree**

*He put another parable before them, saying,*

*The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field.*

*It is the smallest of all seeds,*

*but when it has grown*

*it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree,*

*so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.*

## As Leaven in Flour

*He told them another parable.*

*The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour,  
till it was all leavened.*

## Editorial Comment: Prophecy Fulfilled

*All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable.*

*This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet:*

*“I will open my mouth in parables;*

*I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.”*

## Application/Participation

- How can these parables bear fruit in our lives as we believe on the Lord Jesus?
- In contrast to the “American spirit”, get ‘er done, instant society...
- What does **conversion** to Christ look like?
- What does **obedience** to Christ look like?
- What does **Bible reading** and **prayer** look like?
- What does **church growth** look like?
- What do **relationships** look like?

## Application/Participation

- What is the aim of **congregational worship**?
- What does **our affect** on neighborhoods and towns and cities look like?
- What shape does **evangelism** take?
- What does cross cultural **missions** look like?
- Contrast the agricultural rhythms and patience of the biblical world to industrial agriculture.
- We are still reeling from its effects, and have not yet seen all the long term consequences

## Application/Participation

- The spirit of the age would have us impatient, looking for shortcuts to relationships, moving on the fast track...rather than plowing, watering, and seed planting as we wait on the Lord.
- While there are certainly periods of “punctuated” growth in these various areas, these parables teach us the necessity of patience and faithfulness.
- Otherwise, we can feel inadequate or ineffectual, lose hope, and give up.
- We are called to continue to utter the story, often in parables to non-understanding people, of the Kingdom of God which is progressing from the foundation of the world