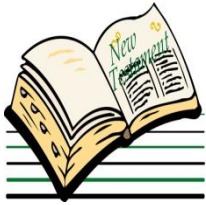


Sermon Notes



Title: "The Sure Growth of God's Kingdom"

Text: Matthew 13:31-35

Theme: The Kingdom of Christ will start out very small but will encompass the whole world. This means that what we do here in this "little place" is not little or small. What we do for Christ in His Church has eternal value and significance.

I. The Parable of the Mustard Seed Highlights that the Kingdom of Christ Will Start Out _____ and _____, But Its _____ Will Be _____ (31-32)

II. The Parable of the Leaven Stresses the _____ of the Kingdom of God (33)

III. Christ's Teaching in Parables _____ Scripture (34-35)

IV. Applications

A. There is a _____ to God's Kingdom, but it inevitably and unfailingly _____ itself in the _____.

B. The Kingdom of God will continue to _____ until it has the _____ in the world of mankind.

Next Week Read: Matthew 13:44-46

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. To what kind of seed does Jesus compare the Kingdom of Heaven (v. 31)?
2. What is a major characteristic of this seed (v. 32a)?
3. In the parable, what happens as the seed matures (v. 32b)?
4. How does Jesus emphasize this seed's unusual growth (v. 32c)?
5. To what other common instance of daily life does Jesus compare the Kingdom of Heaven (v. 33)?
6. What does the leaven do to the flour (v. 33b)?
7. What does this parable teach about the Kingdom of God?
8. Are the Kingdom of God and the Church identical? What is the difference? How are they related?
9. What are some examples of things that started out small and become really big?
10. How successful do you expect the Church and Christianity to be in this life?
11. How successful is the Church in our present time? What issues or events might call into question the Church's success? Do these matters keep God's will from being accomplished?
12. What are some significant mistakes Christians make when seeking to realize the Kingdom of God on earth?
13. How might we need to rethink our definition of success in terms of church growth and health?
14. Triumphalism is the attitude or belief that a particular teaching, religion, culture, or social system is superior to and should triumph over all others. Mainly the term is a pejorative. How would you respond to a critic who accuses Jesus and His followers of triumphalism?
15. In what ways might the Kingdom of God be hidden? How does the Kingdom of God become visible to people?