

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository
Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

154- Jesus Teaches the People in Parables- Part 10
The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Leaven

Church June 07, 2026

Matthew 13:31-33

31 He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field;

32 and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES."

33 He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened."

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

The 66 Books of the Holy Bible teach us about the one true Religion of God. The Old Testament is NOT a different Religion from the New. And the New has NOT *replaced* the Old. The New has "*fulfilled*" the Old! It has *perfected* the Old! Modern Day Judaism is a *false* Religion! Judaism does NOT have the Power to forgive a single Sin or save a single Soul. Judaism is just as false as Islam, Buddhism, or Hinduism- and those who follow any of those false and Man-made Religions are Lost.

There has always ONLY been just one Religion that was True. And ALL others are Lies and Doctrines of Demons. And throughout History, God has ONLY had one, single People He was dealing with- and they are called, "*Believers*". Because ALL who are chosen by God- believe.

And under the Old Covenant- ALL of the "Believers"- embraced and loved and sought to obey the one true and living God. And today- under the New Covenant- ALL of the "Believers"- embrace; love; and seek to obey the Lord Jesus! So, today- there is NO such thing as anyone being a "Believer" or a "child of God" or one of "God's people" or part of the "Chosen people of God"- who does NOT love and follow and obey- Jesus!

And everybody, who has *ever* been saved and rescued from the Wrath of God against their Sins; were saved the very SAME Way: BY the Grace of God and THROUGH the Gift of saving Faith. Nobody has ever been saved by engaging in Works- not even good, noble, religious Works; and NOBODY has ever been saved through their Obedience to the Commands and Statutes and Ordinances of God.

Now we are *commanded* to obey God- Yes! But ALL of our Obedience comes as Result of us ALREADY being born again; Justified; and Adopted- but NOT as a “Means” to *earn or deserve* Salvation- precisely because Obedience does NOT bring about Salvation- Faith does!

Now Under the Old Covenant (the Law of Moses)- *some* Jews were genuinely saved! But others were NOT! So, there has NEVER been a Time in all of History where ALL of the Jews were saved and in “Right Standing” with God. That has NEVER been True.

But ALL of the saved Jews, loved God; they sought to obey Him- in the *partial* Revelation that God had given to them. And those Jews were genuinely the “chosen people of God”! And in Dr. Luke’s Gospel Record, he infallibly tells us that, ALL of those genuinely saved Jews, who were alive when Jesus came on the Scene- immediately understood that He was the promised Messiah! And, even though they had been underneath the Old Covenant their entire Lives- one they beheld the Christ- they *abandoned* the Old Covenant and embraced Jesus as Lord!

But the Jews, who did NOT believe- were NEVER chosen by God; They were NEVER God’s people; and, while they were the natural descendants of “Father Abraham”- they were NEVER “Sons of Abraham” and neither were they Heirs of ANY of God’s Promises! They were simply lost people- who had a physical and cultural Connection to the real people of God!

And that means that Salvation has NEVER been by Bloodline; Nationality; or Ethnicity. It has ALWAYS been a sovereign Act of God ALONE- that is distributed to the Elect- according to God’s Will and Timing!

Now it is also True that under the infinitely superior New Covenant- NOT all who lay claim to be saved- have actually experienced the Miracle of the New Birth. You see, because we are “fallen Creatures”, we have an *enormous* Capacity to be deceived- *especially* about ourselves! And that is WHY God the Holy Spirit “moved” on 40 Men over a 1,500 year Time-frame- to give us 66 inspired; inerrant; and infallible Books. It is those Books that have the Power to *correctly and fully* “judge” or to “determine” our spiritual Condition. So, we ARE- what God’s Word says we are. And so, in “*Alabama English*”- if the shoe fits- wear it! If the Bible *condemns* you- then you are *Condemned*! And if the Bible *confirms* you- you are *Confirmed*! But you are NOT qualified to make that Determination about yourself!

Now a lot of people today know *parts* of the Bible. I certainly hope that the majority of people, who lay claim to be saved- read the Bible daily. And there are many who study it. There are also many people on this Earth today, who have memorized Verses; or Passages; or even entire Chapters of the Bible. Some have memorized entire Books- while a few have memorized the entire Old or New Testaments! And that is Great!

But what is lacking with far too many of those people- is they really DON'T ever understand the full and complete "Context" of what they are reading and studying and quoting. It is common today, for people in Church to look at the Bible as merely a Collection of true Statements that ONLY have to do with God dealing with them in the 21st Century. And they put those verses on ball caps; T-shirts; and on the bumpers of their car. Yet, in far too many cases- those same people would be hard pressed to explain what their favorite verse actually means- in the Context of what was going on with the man, who first wrote it.

But beloved, that is NOT utilizing the reformed Concept of "*Sola Scriptura*". It is NOT allowing the "Bible to interpret the Bible"; and it is NOT "exegeting" the Text. It is NOT "*taking out of the Scriptures*" what God the Holy Spirit put into them. It is engaging in "*Eisegesis*"- which is the real Bad technique of "*putting into the Scriptures*" what you *want* them to say. Please don't do that.

And so, many of those people never get into WHY a particular Book was written- what was going on behind the Scenes- that precipitated the NEED to write the Book in the first place. And so, they miss the MAIN POINT of WHY the Book is in the Bible!

But I want to narrow that down to say that the same thing that is also True about whole Books- is also True about individual Chapters and Verses.

We have to understand, dear friends, that the 1st Century Jew, who was saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus and in His finished Work- was NOT "Neutral". They were NOT walking around with empty Heads- completely Ignorant of what God had already spoken in the 39 Books of the Old Covenant. Whether they were saved or still Lost- the Jews had been taught and had learned the Old Testament since Birth. And so, when Jesus made certain Statements; or drew certain Comparisons; or made certain Analogies; or utilized certain symbolic or hyperbolic Expressions- they knew EXACTLY what He meant!

But unless we arrive at the correct Context- we will NOT understand what Jesus meant- and we will get "Off-base" very Quickly. And that is WHY we have about 39,000 different Denominations on the Earth today! If you ignore Context; if you say, "*Context doesn't matter*"; or if you allow a verse or Passage to mean *anything* your Mind can conceive- you will NEVER arrive at Divine Truth! And many years ago now, I saw this- and God dealt with me to begin to seek to truly

become a Part of the “one, holy, universal, and apostolic Church”- that Jesus is building; and over which He alone is Head!

And one of the areas of Context that confuses many people about God and His Ways today- is the Fact that God does NOT operate the same Way we do. God doesn't think like we do; He doesn't speak like we speak; and He doesn't move the Way we would move. Almost everything about America is Big; and Prosperous; and Rich; and Exciting; and Noisy; and Powerful! And 21st Century America operates very, very Fast! Yet the one, true, and living God *prefers* the Small; and the Insignificant; and the Low-Key; and the Quiet; and the Weak. And God operates on a completely *different* time-Table than we do- and so, God does NOT hurry at all!

We rush and hurry- primarily because our Time is limited! But God *controls* Time- and so, the Apostle Paul said this in **2Corinthians 12:9&10**:

9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

... which goes against everything in our Nature!

But God set it all up this Way so that two things will always be True:

1. God will *always* receive ALL the Glory
2. Man will *always* receive the Fullness of Joy- in God alone being Glorified

... which are the two things God cares about the Most!

The fallen “world System” of this “Present Age” in the United States; in the 21st Century- calls us to always be *better*; to run *faster*; to try *harder*; to work *longer*; to get up *earlier* and stay up *later*; to *always* put forth MORE *Effort*- so we can compete effectively; and so we can “*keep up with the Joneses*”. And that is the Sin of “Worldliness”.

But the Bible calls us to live “*counter-intuitively*” to this fallen World. And so, God calls His people to engage in very strange Behavior- as far as the pagan World is concerned. The Bible calls us to die to Self; to crucify our Flesh; to find the Fullness of Joy- in God alone being glorified- even when that means we must *decrease* and become as Nothing! And the infallible Word of the living God calls us to do something very Strange and very Odd. Ninety times in the Holy Bible, God calls us to, “*wait*”! And among those ninety times- we see:

Genesis 49:18

For Your salvation I wait, O Lord

Numbers 9:8

Moses therefore said to them, “Wait, and I will listen to what the Lord will command concerning you.”

Psalm 25:3

Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed; Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.

Psalm 27:14

Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.

Psalm 37:7

Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.

Psalm 37:9

For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the Lord, they will inherit the land.

Psalm 37:34

Wait for the Lord and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Palm 40:1

I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me and heard my cry.

Isaiah 40:31

Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

Romans 8:24&25

24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

1Corinthians 11:33

So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

So, God desires to use the Weak; the Small; and the seemingly Insignificant! And *part* of God's Ways is that what God desires to do- takes a long period of Time- and so, we must learn to wait patiently for it.

And that explains *why* Jesus used both the "Mustard Seed" as well as "Leaven" in these two Parables. And so, getting the correct Context helps us understand what Jesus was talking about.

And part of arriving at the correct and full Context of these two Parables- *requires* that we comprehend that, *before* God made anything- all that existed was God- in His magnificent Tri-unity! And within the three Persons of the one, single God- there existed- absolute Perfection!

- Perfect Love
- Perfect Peace
- Perfect Unity
- Perfect Joy

... that flowed between God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit- without fail- *constantly*!

And in that incomprehensible Perfection- God the Father issued one, single Decree:

That throughout the endless Days of "eternity Future"- God will be praised, exalted, worshipped, and enjoyed by those He chose to display the Glory of His Grace on- AND- God's Righteousness will be magnified and exalted by those He chose to display the Glory of His Justice on!

... and EVERYTHING that has happened since God issued that Decree- has happened- to *cause* that Decree to come to pass! So, God takes everything we call, "Good"; and "True" and Wonderful" along with everything we call, "Bad"; "Terrible"; or "Evil" and He sovereignly "works them all together"- so that which God decreed to happen- WILL happen- *exactly* as He intended!

And God has NOT forgotten His Decree. And that means that from the very Moment He issued that Decree- to this very Day- God has been very busy- and is very busy right now- and will *continue* to be very busy- in all three of His Persons- to cause and allow; to raise up and cast down; to establish and destroy; to bless and

to curse; to heal and to wound; to save and to damn; so that His Decree WILL come to pass!

Under the Old Covenant- God's people had 39 Books. Today, we have 66! Back then- God *primarily* dealt with only one Nation and one People- while today God is moving and saving and dealing with Peoples out from EVERY Nation; Tribe; and Tongue on the Earth! And the Gladness and the Rejoicing of the Nations makes the rejoicing of Israel seem like a Whisper.

But God moves according to His Time-table- NOT ours! But He DOES move! And so, when it seems as though NOTHING is happening- THAT is the very Moment- when God is moving the MOST! When it looks like surely the Church CANNOT survive- THAT is when God brings about Deliverance! When it looks like the sinful World will swallow the Church whole- THAT is when God brings a Revival of Holiness and Purity and Repentance! When it looks like the Sun couldn't ever shine again- THAT is when God puts a Rainbow in the Sky!

So, when we read church History (and O how I want to emphasize your NEED to read Church History!)- we see great Defeats; great Compromises; great Problems; great Challenges; and great Sins! And we are tempted to think that, surely the Church simply CANNOT survive! But we also read about great Triumphs; and great Victories; and great Accomplishments; and great Men, who did great Things for God and His Glory! Amazing Acts of Faith and Perseverance! And we are encouraged! And then, we can understand how the Church has grown and prospered and is now in the Beginning of its *third* Millennia on the Earth!

But let me remind you that as God used those Men- MOST of them operated in complete Obscurity! MOST of them were completely Unknown to the masses of people during their Lifetimes! They labored alone; and fought through Despair and of being Unrecognized; Unloved; and Unappreciated- for the entire Lives!

We see them, today, as "*Heros of the Faith*". But when they walked the earth- MOST of them were seen as "Troublemakers"; false Teachers; Criminals; Liars; and Scoundrels of the worst sort. The Crowds laughed at them; refused to hear them; would not read what they wrote. And MOST of them were arrested; beaten; tortured; imprisoned; and murdered- in Obscurity. Their Papers were burned; their Teachings were rejected; their Sermons were discarded; their Books were burned; and their Lives- seemingly lost to History!

Millions of Believers have read and have been encouraged by the Book, "*Pilgrim's Progress*", written by the Puritan, John Bunyon. And to many, Bunyon represents the very kind of Christin they want to emulate. Yet Bunyon only lived 59 years- and for 12-1/2 of those years- he was imprisoned! Charles Spurgeon, who many consider to be the "*Prince of Preachers*", died at the age of 57 of a broken Heart. After preaching to tens of thousands of people in the 19th Century-

Presidents and Kings among them- his Church voted to fire him! And that majority Vote was decided by a single man- Spurgeon's own natural Brother!

Jonathan Edwards, who is considered to be the very BEST Theologian the United States ever produced, and the Writer of "*Sinners in the Hands of an angry God*" was also fired from his Church and died at the age of 54. Back in the 19th Century, Robert Murray M'Cheyne, who was considered to be one of the most godly and pure Men, who ever lived- died at the age of 29 of typhus Fever- taken at the very Prime of his Life!

And the ONLY Reason we know about these men, is because God used others to write about them. But before Writing was formalized and before Books became cheap enough to buy- God used literally millions of people- most of whom are completely unknown to us today. And yet, without them- the Church would have been destroyed long ago.

Friends, we must remember that Jesus promised to keep His Church. But the Way in which Jesus does that- is by raising up men- who faithfully stands against the Tide of Sin and Compromise; and who are used to preserve the Divine Truth; to bring the Church to a Place of genuine Repentance; and to restore Faithfulness and Steadfastness!

So, most genuine Believers today know little or nothing about people like Abdias of Babylon; and Adrian of Nicomedia; and Anacletus; and Benjamin the Deacon and Martyr; and Crispin; and Cyril of Jerusalem; or Dorothea of Caesarea. But God *knew* them; and God *loved* them; and God *used* them to stand against great Sin and Apostasy in their Day! And so, part of the Reason we have what we have today; and why we believe what we believe today- is because of how God used those forgotten Saints!

And, if God continues to move in the Future as He has in the Past- very few will remember Barbara, Jim, Coleen, and Sharon of Biloxi; Charlotte, Jay, Vivian, and Michael of Long Beach; Rich and Christina of Ocean Springs; Rich, Nicole, Jamison, and Jordan of Mandeville; Hunter of Slidell; Jason and Beth of Saucier; Vern and Lynn by the Tracks; Richard and Peggy of the Pass; Martin the Saucierite with his Wife, saint Dorothy; Kris and Kala of Gulfport; Paul and Beulah from the North Country; Donald and Denise the Robin Woodites; Simeon and Liz- the Worker of Art; along with Robert (Bobby) the Great (please don't get offended if I missed you). And yet- if you were to ask them- they would tell you they were Weak and Ineffectual during their Lives!

But the Reality is that the Success of the Church which is at Gulfport along with the great Advancement of the Gospel in South Mississippi, in the early part of the 21st Century, would simply NOT have happened without them! Look what the Apostle Paul wrote about this in **1Corinthians 1:26-31**:

**26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;
27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,
28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,
29 so that no man may boast before God.
30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,
31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."**

... and THAT is HOW God works: slowly; almost imperceptibly; over a long period of Time- using unknown and very ordinary; weak; and common people, who were filled with Mistakes and Sin- but who were chosen for such an Hour as this! And THAT is what these two Parables are about!

The New Covenant was made between God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit- in Heaven! So, God the Father designed it. God the Holy Spirit makes that Covenant applicable to each chosen vessel; and God the Son was born of a Virgin; lived a sinless Life; had a perfect Ministry; died a substitutionary Death as our Propitiation; rose again from the Dead on the 3rd Day; and ascended into Heaven to sit at the "Right Hand" of God in order to:

- Prepare a Place for us
- Intercede for us
- Rule and Reign over ALL things

... and this same Jesus will come again- to:

... present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. (Ephesians 5:27b)

... and THAT will be the "crowning Achievement" of ALL that Jesus did!

But we must remember that God prefers the Small; the seemingly Insignificant; and the Weak. And God wants us to wait. And God desires to take a long period of Time to fulfill His Decree!

So, *before* the Crown there was the Cross; *before* the Mountain Top- is the Wilderness; *before* the glorious 2nd Coming in Victory- is the suffering Servant; and

before the Glory of God covers the Earth as the waters covers the Sea- there MUST be a small, seemingly insignificant Seed planted in the earth!

Now please look at the *first* part of **Matthew 13:32a**:

and this is smaller than all other seeds...

... and much has been made, over the Centuries, as to the indisputable Fact that a mustard Seed is NOT “smaller” than all the other Seeds! It just isn’t!

And people have fretted over this; and all kinds of Excuses have been offered as to why Jesus didn’t seem to know that; or why He didn’t mean to say it; or why it doesn’t matter. And many people today want to try to make a Distinction between the Bible being true about *spiritual* Matters while allowing that it may NOT be True about *natural* Matters.

But those are simply nicer Ways to *disbelieve* the Bible. Because if I can’t trust what the Bible says about *natural* Issues- why in the World should I trust it about *spiritual* Issues? If I can’t trust the Bible about what I *can* see- why should I trust it about things I *cannot* see? And if the Bible is suspect about things pertaining to *this* Life- then there is NO Reason to trust what it says about the next Life.

The Reality is that an orchid Seed is the *smallest* Seed in the world. And wormwood; begonia; petunia; poppy; watermeal and a whole host of other Seeds are ALL *smaller* than a mustard Seed. So, what gives? What Jesus Uninformed? Was He lying? Is this a bad Translation? Is the Bible Unreliable? No! No! No! and No!

The Answer to this goes back to getting the correct and full Context of a Passage. And you simply CANNOT do that with just the Bible. You need other “Tools” to help you arrive at what the Passage *says*; what it *means* by what it says; and how to *obey* it- so that- you may engage in the Concept of “*Sola Scriptura*”. And you engage in “*Sola Scriptura*” so that- EVERYTHING you believe and teach may come “from the Scriptures and from the Scriptures alone”. And you do that so that- you may have a biblical Church and one that glorifies God!

The Reality is that, according to ancient Jewish agricultural Law- a Famer had to strictly follow already established Rules, which outlined which Seeds and Plants could NOT be sown together due to the biblical Prohibition of “*Kilayim*” or the “*mixing of the Species*” (**Leviticus 19:19; Deuteronomy 22:9-11**). The Jew could grow *any* edible Seed or Vegetable, however- they had to be careful to always keep the various Seeds- *physically* separated.

And, according to the “*Mishnah*”¹- the mustard Seed was famously used as the “Benchmark” with the ancient Jew, for the smallest possible Object or Measure- *in comparing other things*. So, while it is True that the mustard Seed is NOT the smallest Seed in the World- it is also True that it IS the smallest Seed acknowledged and used by the ancient Jews of the 1st Century- *to use in Comparisons*.

So, Jesus was using this Seed correctly- NOT as the smallest Seed in the World- but the smallest Seed that Jewish Farmers were allowed to use when making Comparisons with other things!

Okay, but then with what is Jesus making a Comparison? If the mustard Seed is used as the Benchmark for comparing other things- what is the other thing Jesus is comparing the mustard seed with or to?

In this Parable, Jesus is comparing what is already established with something that is Small; Weak; and seemingly Insignificant. Jesus is correctly using the mustard Seed to make a Comparison between something that is already Large; already in Operation; and already Functioning; WITH something else that isn't- yet! I wonder what that might be?

What was already Large; already Established; already in Operation; and already Functioning at the Time Jesus gave this Parable- was, *primarily*, the Kingdom of Satan. But that wasn't the only thing. The Old Covenant; the Jewish Age; the Old Wineskin; or the Law of Moses was also firmly established in Israel. But what was NOT already Established; what was NOT already in Operation; and what was NOT already Functioning- at that Time; what was Weak; Small; and seemingly Insignificant was the New Covenant; the Church; and the Kingdom of Heaven!

So, the mustard Seed represents the Kingdom of Heaven- that is making its Beginning; its Start- in the Life, Ministry; Death; and Resurrection of Jesus. And that small, seemingly insignificant Seed will be planted IN THE EARTH! So, this is NOT in Heaven! This is on this Earth!

And that Seed will germinate. And it will send down Roots. And the smallest Seed that the ancient Jews used for Comparisons- will begin to grow. And it will grow very slowly- over a very long period of Time- so that- **“when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.”**- which signifies the great Success and Victory of the Gospel; the Church; and the Kingdom of Heaven!

¹ The “**Talmud**” is the foundational central Text of Rabbinic Judaism and the primary Source of Jewish Law; Ethics; and Tradition. The Talmud is divided into two Parts: The “**Mishnah**”- which is the “Oral Law” edited around 200 AD; and the “**Gemara**”- which is extensive Commentary; Analysis; and Debate concerning the Mishnah.

Yet all along the Way of this relentless “Expansion” of the Kingdom of Heaven on the Earth- through His Church- there will be Problems and Tests and Trials and Persecutions; and terrible Mistakes will be made. But the Decree of God is Secure! It CANNOT fail!

And so, the small, weak, seemingly insignificant Seed of the Kingdom of Heaven- being planted in the sinful World as the invincible Church of the 1st Born-will, first, establish a “Beachhead”- right on the Shore of satan’s Kingdom!

Now 82 years ago, yesterday, the Allied Powers conducted what we call, “D-Day”. And it was the greatest Invasion in human History- utilizing unthinkable land; sea; and air Assaults against Nazi Germany on the Beaches of northern France. 17, 18, 19, and 20 year old boys- just boys- scared to Death children, really- stormed the Beaches at Normandy in the face of unwinnable Odds. And within the first hour- 4,400 US Soldiers had been ripped to shreds by 50 caliber machine gun fire!

Slowly- but relentlessly- those boys crawled through the sand- the Noise of Bombs; Mortars; Explosions; and Gun-fire- bursting their eardrums- drowned out only by the Screams of human beings being blown to pieces- arms and legs flying through the air; men crying out to God; crying for their Mothers; begging someone to help them! And the Blood! O, the Blood! It literally stained the sand and turned the waves red!

The military Leaders saw what was happening- and to a man- they genuinely thought it was going to be a route for the Enemy! There is just no Way we can win this! Those boys are being eviscerated! But after three hours of non-stop Carnage- some had reached over 100 yards inland! But some were still fighting in the Water- so it wasn’t Uniform. It certainly wasn’t Pretty. There was great Confusion; great Mismanagement; and great Suffering- but after five hours- some had even knocked out the German Pill-boxes- that had been raining lead on them since that Morning!

Omaha Beach was the Worst. The US 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions fought like Lions- but the Germans were just too Strong; too dug- in; too entrenched. And after just a few hours of fighting- the Americans had lost 2,400 souls! Several Commanders considered pulling the rest out and acknowledging Defeat. It really looked Bad. But by Nightfall- the unthinkable happened and the Beachhead was secure!

By the first Week- we were 10-15 Miles inland. By the first month- 25 Miles. slowly; almost imperceivable- with great Resistance and making many Mistakes- more and more Ground was taken from the Enemy! And after 6 Months- the Enemy was in full Retreat! But without *first* establishing the Beachhead- that Victory NEVER would have happened!

Beloved, Jesus was using the mustard seed as a Comparison between the Weak; seemingly Insignificant Beachhead of the Establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven- on this Earth- through His Church- AND- the Large; Powerful; already Established; and seemingly Invincible Kingdom of satan.

But Jesus was also comparing the small and weak and insignificant Beginnings of the Church- with the already entrenched “Jewish Age” of the Old Covenant!

And the Point is that, even though the Kingdom of Heaven was sown in great Weakness; and even though it seemed Impossible to overcome ALL of the Obstacles that it faced then and is still facing Today- the initial “Beachhead” was made through the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus! And so, the Seed of the Kingdom of Heaven- in the Earth- the Church- is slowly, but relentlessly, gaining more and more Ground- every Year!

And Jesus said that this Weak; Small; seemingly Insignificant Seed...
... is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.

Now Jesus is NOT making a direct word-for-word Quote here from the Old Testament. He is *alluding* to the Old Testament Concept of a massive, “kingdom-like Tree” where “birds of the air” find Shelter. This Imagery is drawn from two primary prophetic Texts:

- **Ezekiel 17:23:** Where the Lord promises to plant a “Sprig” that will become a majestic Cedar and declares that, **“birds of every kind will nest under it’ they will nest in the shade of its Branches”.**
- **Daniel 4:10-12:** Where a great, dominating “Tree” is described, stating that, **“Its foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, And in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, And the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches, And all living creatures fed themselves from it.”**

... this is “*Hebraic, Apocalyptic Hyperbole*”² that illustrates the wide, global reach of the Kingdom of Heaven- AFTER it is first planted in the Earth- in great Weakness (the Church); and AFTER a very long- extended Period of Time!

The 2nd Parable is about “Leaven”:

... The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three

²A traditional literary and rhetorical Device used by ancient biblical Writers. It relies on extreme Exaggeration and vivid, cosmic Imagery (like stars falling, suns darkening, or the world ending) to emphasize the profound, Paradigm-shifting Weight of historical Events, rather than predicting the literal End of the physical Universe.

pecks of flour until it was all leavened.

Now a “peck” of Flour is about 2 Gallons; 8 dry Quarts; or 16 dry Pints. It is equal to about 15 US Cups of All-purpose Flour.

Now, again, if you want to understand this fully- you MUST use other Tools to arrive at the correct Context. So, using several reference Books about Life in 1st Century Israel- I found out that “Leaven” back then was NOT found in a small packet at the grocery Store. It was a small piece of fermented dough that had been kept from a previous batch.

And that alludes to the Fact that- as the Leaven is incorporated into the Flour- so too- the Kingdom of Heaven- operating through the New Covenant- is “incorporated” into the Earth- as the Church! And as the Leaven *permeates* throughout all of the New Flour to give Life to it and make it rise- so too, the Gospel- the Preaching of the Kingdom of Heaven- operating through the New Covenant- through the Church of Jesus- will permeate; and influence; and bring Life; and will eventually- after a long period of Time- *dominate* over ALL things on this Earth!

And that is when **Psalm 110:1** will come to pass:

The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

... in other words, the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth- the Church- after a long period of slow, steady, almost imperceivable Growth in bringing eternal Life to all those God has chosen from every Nation; Tribe; and Tongue- will *ultimately* triumph! And ALL of the Enemies of God will either be converted or damned! And so, Jesus wins!

So, the two Parables of the Mustard Seed and Leaven is about the Invincibility of the Kingdom of Heaven- even though it begins very Small and Insignificant; as well as the Inevitability of the ultimate and glorious Triumph of Jesus; the New Covenant; the Kingdom of Heaven- which is the Church of Jesus on the Earth!

So, these two Parables are about the Kingdom of Heaven- which while Jesus was on the earth was Small, Weak, and seemingly Insignificant- like the mustard Seed. And it initially makes its “Beachhead”- as it is “sown” into the Earth- in great Weakness- like the mustard Seed is “sown” into the ground. But that Seed relentlessly grows into a great Tree- that will *dominate* over the whole earth- after a long, extended period of Time.

And like the Leaven, the Kingdom of Heaven- will *relentlessly* infiltrate into every Area of this earth- bringing eternal Life to those chosen for Salvation and bringing eternal Damnation to those who love the Darkness rather than the Light!

And that Seed; that Leaven- will totally transform everything it touches- until it grows to completely *dominate* the World! And THAT is when the “Church Victorious” will have accomplished ALL that it was created to do! And THAT is when the Prophecy will come to pass:

For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)

... and THAT is what will bring Jesus back!

You see, dear Friends, Sin; Evil; and Wickedness will NOT bring Jesus back! Because the 2nd Coming is NOT a “rescue Mission”. The 2nd Coming is the glorious Culmination of the Gospel of the Kingdom being Victorious OVER all Sin, Evil, and Wickedness! So, it is the Church- remaining on the Earth- *faithfully* Enduring until the End; the Church- remaining on the Earth- *joyfully* Obeying her Head; subduing satan; and the Church- remaining on the earth- *slowly but relentlessly* removing Evil from the World- either through Conversion or Damnation- THAT is what will bring Jesus back!

And when He comes back- Jesus will present to Himself a *pure* Bride- who has “made herself Ready”- accomplishing what the *first* Bride (Israel) failed to do! And THAT will be the crowing Achievement of Jesus’ Work in the Earth!

Amen! Let’s pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.

