

Silver Creek Fellowship NOTES

July 28

THE GREATEST STORIES EVER TOLD THE KINGDOM

1. Revealing the Kingdom

a. Perhaps Jesus' main purpose in using parables.

Matthew 13:11 (NKJV) Matthew 13:16-17 (NKJV)

b. Many of Jesus' parables begin with "The kingdom of heaven is like".

Matthew 13:31-32 (NKJV) Matthew 13:33 (NKJV)

2. The Mustard Seed

a. Basic Kingdom truth – Kingdom things usually begin very small but potentially become the greatest.

b. Mustard seed is "The least of all seeds".

Of course, God uses this seed to describe His Kingdom.

He started His covenant dealings with men by one man – Abraham.

He started His new covenant dealings with man by one man – Jesus.

c. Jesus also speaks of mustard seed is in connection with faith

Matthew 17:20 (ESV)

People say Jesus is saying "You only need just a tiny bit of faith".

Clearly that's not true. He expresses displeasure at their little faith.

He was not referring to the size of the mustard seed but its nature.

A living, growing dynamic faith that starts small but grows.

3. The Leaven

a. Again we see something that is very small.

Bread recipe calls for 5 cups of flour and 1 tbl spoon of yeast.

That's 80 times more flour than yeast.

Yeast makes bread what it is.

b. The effect of yeast on bread and the effect of the Kingdom on society.

c. Babylonian captivity

10,000 Israelites were taken to captivity to Babylon.

Babylon was a city of 200,000 – that's 5%.

Israel changed the history of Babylon.

***Jeremiah 29:7 (NET1)** Work to see that the city where I sent you as exiles enjoys peace and prosperity. Pray to the LORD for it. For as it prospers you will prosper.'*

We are a church of at least 500 in a city of 10,000 – that's 5%.

d. We are carriers of the Kingdom.

***Luke 17:21 (NKJV)** - "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."*

***1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)** - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."*