

## Parables of Jesus - Lesson 7 - The Mustard Seed and Yeast

- Why might there be different interpretations of a Bible passage?

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

31 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 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.”

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

### Questions to Ponder:

- How would you interpret the parable of the mustard seed? What is the meaning of the small mustard seed growing into a tree? What do the birds represent? How would you apply this parable to your life?
- What is the meaning of the parable of the yeast? What might the yeast working its way through the dough represent? How would you apply this parable to your life?
- Why might there be different interpretations of a Bible passage? Do you agree that there is only one single correct interpretation (original intent)? Why?
- What are the implications of the two different understandings of these parables?
- What is your response when someone interprets a Bible passage differently than you do? How does that make you feel?
- What should our goal be when reading, interpreting, and applying the Bible? How do truth, unity, and possibly pride factor in as we relate to fellow believers with differing interpretations?

### Related Verses to Ponder:

- **Unity:** Psalm 133:1-3, 1 Corinthians 1:10-17, Ephesians 4:1-7
- **Division:** Proverbs 6:16-19, Matthew 12:25-26, Romans 16:17-18, 1 Corinthians 3:1-4
- **The Berean Example:** Acts 17:10-12