

## **Parable of the Mustard Seed and Leaven (Matthew 13: 31-33) Part I**

- These parables come after Jesus had delivered the blind & mute man
- Jesus encountered hostility from Pharisees, the disciples were alarmed
- Jesus' parables address their concerns regarding the kingdom of heaven
- Parable of the sower and the seed: different soils & different responses
- Parable of wheat & tares: evil growing together with the righteous
- Still the disciples had a certain triumphalist concept of the kingdom
- Jesus tells them, the kingdom is a mystery: starts small & grows large

### **I. The Parable of the Mustard Seed (13: 31,32)**

- The first parable – the breadth of the kingdom- the field is the world
- 2<sup>nd</sup> parable: kingdom of righteousness grows with evil beside to harvest
- 3<sup>rd</sup> parable: height of the kingdom – small mustard seed grows so large
- 4<sup>th</sup> parable: depth of the kingdom: hidden in dough, influences within.
- Farmer sows a mustard seed: external power of the kingdom (v.31)
- Mustard seed, smallest harvest bearing seeds grow to 15 feet in height
- So large is the tree that birds of the air can nest in it (v.32)

### **II. Meaning of the Parable of the Mustard Seed & Its Application**

- The kingdom will start small
- The Kingdom grows very large (Ps. 72:8; Isa 54:2; Rev 11:15)
- The Kingdom will not be overwhelmed by evil
- The birds of the air will find shelter in its branches (Dan 4:10,21-22; Ezek 31:3,