



Living Walking Serving

FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

**LEARNING FROM THE MASTER
(JESUS CHRIST- OUR CHIEF CORNERSTONE)**

STUDY 20-40 – THE PARABLES OF JESUS - Parable No. 14-The parable of the Mustard Seed

Text: Matt.13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19, John 12:24, Ezek.17:23, Dan.4:11-21, Matt.13:4,19; Rev. 18:2, 1 Cor.5:1; 6:7; 2 Cor.11:13; Gal.1:7

LAST WEEK: Parable No. 13 – The Parable of the Growing Seed (Mark 4:26-29)

LESSONS: The way God uses His Word in the heart of an individual is mysterious and completely independent of human effort.

Parable No. 14 – The parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19)

The Parable of the Mustard Seed is contained in all three of the synoptic gospels (Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19).

Like with all parables, the purpose of the Parable of the Mustard Seed is to teach a concept or "big idea" using elements or details, like birds, weeds, and growth, that are common, easily recognized, and usually representational of something else.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed was taught in rhetorical hyperbole. Here, Jesus uses a shrub/tree coming from a seed (John 12:24) to represent kingdom growth, consistent with other tree/kingdom references (Ezekiel 17:23 and Daniel 4:11-21). The seed's growth attracts the presence of evil—depicted as birds (Matthew 13:4,19; Revelation 18:2)—to dilute the church while taking advantage of its benefits.

So, the picture painted in the Parable of the Mustard Seed by Jesus is of the humble beginnings of the church experiencing an explosive rate of growth. It grows large and becomes a source of food, rest, and shelter, for both believers and false professing individuals that seek to consume or take advantage of its benefits while residing or mixing among what was produced by the seed (1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:7; 2 Corinthians 11:13; Galatians 1:7). In other words, Jesus predicts that, while the church will grow extremely large from just a small start, it will not remain pure. While this is not a condemnation of the "bigness" of modern Christianity, it does show us the greatest burden that comes with it. The Parable of the Mustard Seed is both a prediction and a warning. May we listen to its message.