

THE PARABLES—Section 2, Part 4

Matthew 13:31-33

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1. After hearing the parables of the sower and of the tares, the disciples likely wondered how this Kingdom could survive if so many people rejected it.
2. The smallest things, in God's hands, have enormous impact and a far-reaching effect. In an immeasurably greater way, God demonstrates through the church how just a handful of believers would, in His power, change the course of the planet.
3. 13:32 Jesus was not speaking in absolute terms, as a biologist would, but in the frame of normal experience in Middle East agriculture.
4. 13:32 Because of its tiny size, the mustard seed became proverbial for something small because they were familiar with it (Matthew 17:20).
5. 13:32 Proportionately, there is no other seed in the ancient world which farmers planted that started so small yet became so large.
6. 13:32 The first-century followers of Jesus did not see what we see...the Church continues to grow exponentially.
7. 13:32 The many variety of birds represent the nations of the earth (Ezekiel 17:23-24).
8. 13:32 Whenever the Gospel of the Kingdom is faithfully practiced, all the world benefits.
9. 13:33 The smallest part of the Kingdom placed in the world will have influence, because it contains the power of God's own Spirit.
10. 13:33 Jesus helps us see that outward appearances count for very little. In contrast, the power of God, who chooses to work through humble instruments, is what will bring about the influence of the Kingdom. Humility does not mean insignificance.

SONG TITLES

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