

Mustard Seed Revolution

Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches"
Luke 13:18-19.

When Jesus taught the crowds about the Kingdom of God, He used parables. In explaining the Kingdom of God He said that it was similar to a treasure in a field, a fish net, a farmer who planted seed, yeast, and also *mustard*.

Why did Jesus explain the Kingdom of God as mustard? What was He implying?

In studying the passage, we find three main characteristics of the mustard seed which reveal simple truths about the Kingdom of God:

1. First, the mustard seed was known for its **smallness** and *insignificance*. But because it was so small, it was also known for its ability for much growth. To the world, the Gospel may seem small, insignificant, or even irrelevant – but let someone actually believe it, and see what happens. Let them really trust Christ and invite Him into their life and it is the most transforming, the most revolutionary thing that can occur to them. It is the beginning of a radical change in all their life.
2. Second, the mustard plant was **resisted** among farmers and gardeners. They had very strict rules about how to keep a tidy garden, and one of the secrets was to keep out mustard. It was notorious for invading the well-trimmed veggies and other plants and for quickly taking over the entire garden. In the same way, the Kingdom of God has a way of transforming people's lives completely. Unfortunately, people often don't want to change (even if it's for the better), so just like the mustard plant, the Kingdom of God is resisted.
3. Third, the mustard plant was also infamous for its **power**. It was known to have enough power to overtake whole farming fields if it was let loose. Throughout generations, mustard has also been known for its healing power. The Kingdom of God is both powerful in growth, but also has the power to save men and women from eternal death. However, unlike the powers of this world which find their power from violence and forcefulness, mustard must be crushed, ground, broken in order for its power to be released. In John's Gospel, Jesus compares His death and resurrection to a seed that is broken: "Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed" (John 12:24). Jesus' power is not in crushing but in being crushed, triumphing over the empire's sword with His cross. This is the crazy mystery that we celebrate: a Christ whose body is torn apart and whose blood is spilled, gives us life.

For that very reason, we celebrate communion. The victory has been won. As we participate in communion this morning, we are to remember the victory that was won through Christ's death and resurrection.