

## ***THE INVADING KINGDOM***

### ***MATTHEW 13:31-32***

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As a part of a series on the Kingdom - a couple weeks ago we began looking at what some have called the Sermon by the Sea. Jesus being surrounded climbs into a boat and begins to speak to the crowd. What is unique about this Sermon is the theme of the Sermon is the Kingdom of God. Jesus tells 7 different Parables - that Jesus calls 'Mysteries of the Kingdom' the point being that in this Kingdom operates and functions unlike the Kingdom of the world that we are familiar with. We started by looking the parable of the Sower and noticed that the focus of Jesus parable was not 4 different soils but rather that they described 4 different types of listening.  
last week we looked at another Mystery of the Kingdom - **Growing in the Kingdom.**

**Today I want to talk to you about another Mystery of Kingdom in Jesus series of Parables out of Matthew 13 -**

- **Parable of the Mustard Seed Sown - I want to talk to you about The Invading Kingdom!  
Matthew 13:31-32 - Read**

I have the privilege of having my son work what has come to be known as the 'Happiest place on earth'. So we have visited many many times. Now what I have noticed is something amazing - while everyone has different story to tell of their ups and downs.....the kids got sick - we got sun burned - the cost we don't even want to talk about - but.....

When you enter Disney World something they do very well is to immerse every person in such a way that no matter where you are or what you are doing you can experience what they like to call the Disney 'magic'. My point is you don't just do 'Disney' in the morning and move on....you become immerse into the sights - the sounds - the experience so much so that all those other issues.....loosing your key - kids sickness - loosing your kids.....its all takes a back seat to those special moments....

Now I realize this illustration has some inherent weakness - Jesus in the Sermon by the Sea is talking to His friends about the Mysteries of the Kingdom. This Kingdom that is a real place.....Not a geo-political structure -

But a real place that is intended to so immerse you that it touch's everything in your life!  
Word for Kingdom = the rule and reign ( basilea ) of a King takes place.

Jesus is talking over and over about that Kingdom - and giving pictures - parables  
This is what it looks like to have the Rule and Reign of God in your life!  
Rather than the rule of man.

Now according to Luke - chapter 13:10-17 - Jesus has just healed the woman who was bent over for 18 years.....and is challenged by the Synagogue official for healing on the Sabbath.

According to the laws of the Talmud - no work on the Sabbath had very strict connotations.....  
The indignance of the synagogue official was not about the woman  
bur Jesus seeming disregard for their interpretation of the law....  
Jesus reply was about the woman...

Now Luke places Jesus teaching of the parable of the Mustard Seen sown right after this occasion as if to say again clearly....the Kingdom of God is not like that.....

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***Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.***  
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It is like this....Matthew 13:31-32 - Luke 13:18-19 - Mark 4:30-31

- **Matthew 13**
- **Parable of the Sower** - Listening - bears fruit 100 - 60 and 30 fold
- **Parable of the Wheat and Tares** - Grows in the midst of the Tares because the Master is committed to a Harvest!

### **Parable of the Mustard Seed Sown....it is an Invasive Kingdom!**

Allow me to make 2 quick side notes here

1 - Later in Matthew 17:20

- Jesus talks about those who have the 'Faith' of a mustard seed...can move a mountain - which is a direct reference and teaching about Faith.
- Here is Jesus is talking about Mysteries of the Kingdom - in fact He clearly says the Kingdom of Heave is like a Mustard Seed - Sown.
- So while He use's the same visual the point is clearly different in these two texts.
- Now because of the Matthew 17 teaching it is fairly common that the clearer point of Matthew 13 gets lost - **Jesus is talking in Matthew 13 about the Nature of the Kingdom in our life.**

2 - The Mustard Seed

- Why did Jesus use this illustration here?
- Why not the Majestic cedars of Lebanon....if His point was to as many people easily want to conclude....that the tiny mustard seed grows rapidly and into something large.
- **The truth about the Mustard Seed in Palestine?** And now in Western Canada and in parts of USA - it was introduced into North America some time in the 1700's.....
- It is a 'problem' especially in western Canada.....because much like Palestine in Jesus day....
- **The Mustard Seed.....itself?**
  - Is an invasive - noxious weed! Its called Mustard....and in most Gardens of Jesus day it was like the weeds I fertilize for in my lawn....you know those little yellow monsters that multiply and take over.....

### **Did you catch that?**

- Mustard was NOT something that was planted in a Garden in Jesus day....
- It was pulled.....

Jesus is talking about a Garden and says something that had to of caught his hearers by surprise.....

- The Kingdom is like having Mustard planted in your garden.....

### **What?**

- That noxious - invasive common weed that will take over your garden...what?

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Now this is where most of us find ourselves.....

- We have heard this parable combined with Jesus teaching about faith in Matthew 17 and we quickly connect with the idea of this little seed growing rapidly into something Big.....

Now that is true.....

- But we miss something that Jesus said in the wide open.....
- Lev 19 and Especially Dt 22:9 that say you are not to plant 2 kinds of seed.....together.....
- One of the Purposes of this law was all a part of living this lifestyle that God had given His people through Moses....I am going to take you out....from among the peoples of the earth...

**Hebrew word = Kedosh - make you Kedosh or Holy - meant being Separate!**

- So the idea of the Kingdom for any 1st century worshiper was the idea of Kedosh - being Holy and separate.....
- Jesus is teaching about the Nature of the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew 13, Mark 4 and Luke 13 in this parable of the Mustard Seed....

The Nature of the Kingdom of Heaven is more like that Invasive Mustard.....oh my goodness!

- **You are not going to control it....eventually it will take over your garden.....**
- Now to make matters worse Jesus says the birds would come and take refuge in the Mustard.....now every good Gardner.....works to keep birds OUT of his garden.....
- Man Jesus I hope you are not going to be teaching the next Master Gardner Class!

**But Maybe that is the point!**

- This idea that this Kingdom is neat - orderly - separated in this part of my life.....
- but wait a minute isn't that what the religious leaders of Jesus day taught....

**Truth of the Kingdom?**

- Jesus picture is that its messy and invades every part of our life!
- That is what happens when God is in charge!

**And isn't this what we see in the life of Jesus....?**

- He keeps doing things that are a challenge to those watching....He is talking to a Samaritan woman and asking her for a drink.....
- He is displaying Holiness and Spiritual Warfare in a whole different light!

**Consider this.....**

The Man who is the image of God is doing things that would cause Him to be seen as ineligible to be in the Presence of God....in the Community of God's people.....but He demonstrates that the Kingdom is about bringing the Presence of God to People!

- Jesus is displaying a different definition of Holiness!
- Not something that separates - but something that Invades!

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A pair of Quaker pastors named Philip Gulley and James Mulholland wrote a wonderful book entitled If Grace Is True

*"Holiness is God's ability to confront evil without being defiled. God's holiness does not require him to keep evil at arm's length. God's holiness enables Him to take the wicked in His arms and transform them. God is never in danger of being defiled. No evil can alter His love, for His gracious character is beyond corruption. This is what it means to say God is holy--God's love is incorruptible.*

*Holiness and love are not competing commitments. God is love. His love endures forever. This enduring love is what makes God holy. No manner of evil done to us or by us can separate us from this love. God transforms His morally imperfect children through the power of His perfect love. It is our experience of this love that inspires us to such perfection.*

*Jesus said, 'Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect' (Matt. 5:48). If this verse was a command for moral perfection, our cause is hopeless. Fortunately, this admonition follows a command to 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you' (Matt. 5:44). Perfection is demonstrated not by moral purity, but by extravagant love. **We are like God not when we are pure, but when we are loving and gracious.**"*

So what does all this mean?

**The Gospel of this King and His Kingdom in your life – will display this same Holiness.....**

### **1 – A Holiness that disrupts all our best efforts.....and works.....**

- Paul said Philippians 3 – all his best religion was RUBBISH.....
- Old Garden.....*I want to be found IN HIM....*
- Holiness beloved is not a call to try harder....its a call to consider your way of life DEAD – Romans 6:8-14
- Dream of Church.....is about living in HIM not in our efforts

### **2 – A Holiness that invades everything around you.....**

- Your life is going to become a welcoming place for the birds.....the broken and hurting....
- it will begin to **become** vs 32 something it was not before.....
- 2 Cor 5:14-21 this Gospel now controls us.....
- Beloved to be CLEAR – spiritual warfare ( term neither Jesus nor any of the apostles made – Paul said the weapons of our warfare are not carnal.....and to put on the whole armor of God )
- Spiritual warfare implies we are fighting to win a battle – against the enemy....
  - Spiritual warfare is NOT to win a battle.....that has already been won!
  - So it is not about Outsmaring or outmaneuvering the Enemy
  - Believing in the Victory and Proclaiming the Victory of the Cross beloved!
  - So everywhere I go becomes a Kingdom Zone – I proclaim Redemption has come!

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- **A Holiness that disrupts our efforts at works...**
- **A Holiness that invades our life and everything around us....**

### **3 – A Holiness that is Costly...**

- 2 Timothy 3:12 *All who desire to live godly will be persecuted.....*and to be clear it will come from both sides.....
- 1 Peter 1:1 – why because we are not foreigners – but Pilgrims proclaiming the rule of this early King and Kingdom have come to an end and another King and His Kingdom have come!
- Now I want to remind you that from the very beginning this was not news that was received well.....remember Herod.....?

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