

TWO PARABLES ABOUT INFLUENCE
(Matthew 13:31-35)

I. The Parable of the MUSTARD SEED (Matt. 13:31-32)

A. Jesus' PARABLE

1. He's describing a CHARACTERISTIC of the "KINGDOM of heaven"
2. Mustard was the SMALLEST seed they CULTIVATED
3. It grew into the LARGEST of their "GARDEN PLANTS"
4. BIRDS could NEST in its branches

B. Jesus' POINT

1. The kingdom's BEGINNING would be SMALL and seem INSIGNIFICANT
2. It would GRADUALLY grow LARGER and STRONGER
3. It provides BENEFIT even for those NOT of the kingdom

II. The Parable of the LEAVEN (Matt. 13:33)

A. Jesus' PARABLE

1. He's describing a CHARACTERISTIC of the "KINGDOM of heaven"
2. A woman could HIDE it in a BUSHEL of FLOUR
3. It PERMEATED the flour so ALL was "leavened"

B. Jesus' POINT

1. SMALL things can have GREAT influence
2. The Kingdom's influence is POSITIVE
3. Its influence comes from WITHIN

III. The Parables as FULFILLMENT of PROPHECY (Matt. 13:34-35)

A. Jesus is now using parables ALL THE TIME

B. His parables are intended to REVEAL truths previous HIDDEN

1. This phase of the kingdom is NEW INFORMATION about God's program of redemption
2. This phase of the kingdom NOT a CHANGE to God's program of redemption