

# Sermon Outline

## “Growth of the Kingdom”

### Matthew 13:31-33

#### I. Four parables told to the multitude in chapter 13

- A. The soil vv. 3-9 (focus on division)  
Explained privately to his disciples vv. 10-23 (in the boat?)
- B. The tares vv. 24-30 (focus on division)  
Explained privately to his disciples later vv. 36-43 (in the house)
- C. The mustard seed vv. 31-32 (focus on expansion)
- D. The leaven v. 33 (focus on expansion)

#### II. Jesus uses the Hebraic device of parallelism in these parables

The soil and tares comprise a couplet  
A man sowing seed (in both)  
Individuals in the kingdom are in view (vv. 19ff; v. 38)  
Good soil, bad soil; wheat, tares

The mustard seed and the leaven comprise a couplet  
A man planting, a woman mixing  
The kingdom itself is in view  
A large tree; a leavened loaf

#### III. The growth of the Kingdom of Heaven is a certainty

The darnel is not to be removed prematurely vv. 29-30  
Men do not know the heart, God does and he shall deal with it in time.  
In the leaven (v. 33) the process of kingdom growth is hidden

The Kingdom has small beginnings (*cf.* Zech 4:10)  
In the parable of the soil, 75% of the soil produces no lasting fruit  
In the parable of the tares, the field is poisoned.

But the certainty is that God’s Kingdom shall be full and glorious!  
The woman’s loaf was huge – 50-60 pounds! (*cf.* I Cor 5:6)  
This is a symbol of feasting.  
The birds make nests in the tree (*See* Dan 4:10-12; Ezek 17:22-24)  
This is a symbol of security!