

The Parables of Christ no. 9

The Mustard Seed

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Matthew 13:31-32 *Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.*

Now, again in this parable, we find Jesus again referring to the Kingdom of Heaven. And here He likens the Kingdom of Heaven to that of a mustard seed which is the seed of a plant that in oriental countries grows from a very small seed and attains to the height of a tree, ten feet and more.

Let's read this parable again from the Book of Mark.

Mark 4:30-32 *30 And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? Notice here that Jesus is asking the question, if we are to make a comparison of the kingdom of God which is the kingdom of heaven, and then what can we compare it with? And then He tells us... 31 It (The kingdom of God, hence the Kingdom of heaven) is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: 32 But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it. 33 And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it. 34 But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.*

And let's read one more time this parable from the Book of Luke.

Luke 13:18-19 ¶ *Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? Again we find Jesus asking the question as to what we use as a comparison to the kingdom of Heaven. Then He answers, again... 19 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.*

Now, we know that He had already told them several parables about the Son of Man sowing seed which is the Word of God. Hence we can say then that He is speaking here of the Word of God again, and He is illustrating in each of these parables that the Seed is not supposed to remain in this Book, but it is to be scattered about to the field that it might grow to a great plant, greatest among the herbs?

Now why would He type it with an herb and not some other plant? Because in the Book of Genesis God gave us the herb for food. In fact not just food but He gave us the herb for our meat. **GENESIS 1:29** ¶ *And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given] every green herb for meat: and it was so.*

Now, Jesus likens the grain of mustard seed also to Faith for let's face it without faith you have not an entrance into this kingdom of God. **MATTHEW 17:20** *And Jesus said unto them,..." for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."*

And again in the book of **LUKE 17:6** we read, *And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.*

MATTHEW 4:16 *The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

MATTHEW 7:21 ¶ *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

MATTHEW 13:11 *He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.*

MATTHEW 16:15 *He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock (that's the rock of revelation) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

Therefore we see the keys to the kingdom is revelation of the Word of God. And without Revelation of the word of God you can not even see or perceive what the Kingdom of God is or what it is all about.

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN 61-1231M 207 *Now remember, I believe that Jesus Christ says this to every human being on His first doctrine, "Except a man be born of the water (That's the Word, washing of the water by the Word.) and of the Spirit (which is the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit confirming the Word), he cannot see the Kingdom of heaven." Do you believe that? See? Of the water, washing of the water by the Word, Word and Truth, He is the Truth. Water and Spirit, the Spirit coming with the Word to confirm the Word, making God live in me... See? We cannot understand the Kingdom of heaven till that's happened. Then when that begins to happen, that we see the Word in us, born of the Word and of the Spirit, manifesting Itself, leading me not away from the Word; the Spirit leads me to the Word, and the Word living in me, making God manifest in your life, you'll never understand the Kingdom of God and can no wise enter into it. God bless you. Brother Neville.*

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN 61-1231M 30 *So now, remember it didn't say, "You ought to be born again," but, "you must." Now, we, as English speaking people, understand what the word "must" means, that is, "it's absolutely, you've got to do it." See, it's a must. Not, "you ought to; you'd be better off if you did, but "you must be borned again." Oh, if we could just take that word this morning and break it down, what it means, how that it's totally impossible... And then if it's that essential and that great, that it's totally impossible to enter the Kingdom of heaven, or even see It, until you're born again, and so many different interpretations of that word "borned again," we ought to seek it out with all of our heart to find out what it means.*

Notice he is talking about revelation of the Word of God and without being born again you will never enter that kingdom. Now, when we speak of a kingdom we are not speaking of a place as much as the King and His domain or His people He has dominion over. Hence we are speaking of the Presence of Christ, and being aware of that Presence. Now, many who rejected the understanding of the presence claim to be preaching it now, after nearly 20 years of rejecting it. And why? Because they know that it is right. They have taken their potshots at those who teach it as though we are some sort of vile creatures, and because we have taken a strong stand for the doctrine we must have some sort of a twisted mind, or some sort of a hard and bad spirit.

But they are now beginning to teach the presence because they know it is right, and yet they will not preach the Judge is Here, for that would then bring words of warning and judgment, and as they are trying to build up their own little kingdoms, here on earth they do not want people to know about the True kingdom of God. In the Alpha we saw the same thing, and therefore we can know with assurance that it has to repeat in this hour. And so we saw it in Matthew chapter 23.

Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees and scribes and he said, **MATTHEW 23:13 ¶** *But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in [yourselves], neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.*

Now, how will they shut up the kingdom of heaven against men? Well, if it takes a revelation to see it and perceive the presence of the King Himself, and they teach contrary to that revelation, then they are in essence preventing others that are dependent upon their ministry for Words of life from entering, because they are not giving enough mental revelation for the Spirit of God to anoint in order for it to become a dynamic revelation. And thus they fill the

people's minds with talk of printing books and making tapes and all this busy work and the meanwhile the people are starving for meat which is the herb, and the greatest is the mustard seed, which is faith, which is revelation of the Word Itself.

INFLUENCE 64-0315 E-33 *Fellow said to me, said, "I wouldn't care how many cases you could show, and how many cases the doctor could show of different healings," said, "I do not believe in healing. It's not so." I said, "Certainly. It wasn't sent to unbelievers. It was only sent to those who believe. It's only for believers." He said, "He that believeth, all things are possible," not him that unbelieveth. One speck of unbelief against the Word of God and you'll stay out of the Kingdom of heaven. It took Eve out. It caused all this trouble.*

Just one little word injected and look at all the death and dying that has taken place in the world.

Now, we know that Faith is what Jesus types the mustard seed with. And Faith represents to us a living reality of the Living God Living in our Midst. And Brother Branham told us that Faith is a Revelation. The whole process into the kingdom, what we call our kingdom journey all begins with Faith. We are justified by faith which means we are cleanly and clearly forgiven, and we understand that through the Blood of Jesus Christ we are forgiven for all our sins past, present and future. But it is this faith in the Work of the Cross and our Faith in the Word of God that draws us into the kingdom Presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Concerning Faith, Martin Luther Defined said: *"Faith is not what some people think it is. Their human dream is a delusion. Because they observe that faith is not followed by good works or a better life, they fall into error, even though they speak and hear much about faith. "Faith is not enough," they say, "You must do good works, you must be pious to be saved." They think that, when you hear the gospel, you start working, creating by your own strength a thankful heart which says, "I believe." That is what they think true faith is. But, because this is a human idea, a dream, the heart never learns anything from it, so it does nothing and reform doesn't come from this 'faith,' either. Instead, **faith is God's work in us, that changes us and gives new birth from God. (John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.)** Faith kills the Old Adam and makes us completely different people. **It changes our hearts, our spirits, our thoughts and all our powers. It brings the Holy Spirit with it.***

Notice Martin Luther said that Faith brings the Holy Spirit with it. It opens the door to receiving the new birth and allowing The Spirit of God to have entrance and to live within our hearts.

In fact that is the same thing Brother Branham said. From the Message entitled, **QA IMAGE OF THE BEAST 54-0515 187-239** Brother Branham said, *Now, watch now the next, He says, "And thou art Simon, and I give unto thee..." because he had the spiritual, revealed truth. That's the reason he knowed the difference between Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. He had a spiritual revelation.* (and Remember that is what John said, when he said, He that has not the doctrine of Christ does not even have God, and he that hath the doctrine of Christ has BOTH the Father and the Son.) Now in continuing with brother Branham's thought on this, he continues, *...That's what you're understanding tonight, where the Holy Spirit's opening it up to us. He said, "Thou art Simon, and I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven. And whatever you bind on this earth, I'll bind it in heaven. Whatever you loose on this earth, I'll loose it in heaven." Did He say it? St. Matthew the 16th chapter, "Whatever you bind on earth, I'll bind in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth, I'll loose in heaven. And I will give you the keys to (What?) the Kingdom of heaven." What is the Kingdom of heaven? The Holy Spirit.*

Notice then, how brother Branham said that the keys to the kingdom of heaven is revelation of the Word of God. And he calls this revelation of the Word of God having the keys to access the Holy Spirit. We know that the Father is the Word, and that His Son Jesus Christ the anointed One, was the Word made flesh, which means He is the Word of God manifested or openly expressed. Now, Jesus typed Himself with being "The Door". He said, no man can come in or out except it be through me. Therefore, it is the manifested Word which is the entrance, and that is what Revelation is all about. You can not even perceive what the Kingdom of God is all about except it be by revelation. God interprets His Own Word by doing what? By bringing it to pass. Therefore, Revelation of the Word is the ability to see the word of God manifested, and be able to take it back to the Written Word, to know the day and hour that you are living. God gives you an ability to see it and then piece together

what you are seeing with the Word God has already before hand declared. Therefore Revelation is not some human notion or some human perception, but rather it is being able to see the Word lived out before you. And as you look upon that Word living itself out before your very eyes, you become part of that scene that is being played out. A living play taking place where you are one of the actors.

Now, a door is an entrance into something, and since that Door if the Word of God manifested, if you do not have the key to that door, or the key to the Word it will remain for ever locked to you and therefore your entrance into the kingdom is shut off from you.

Martin Luther knew what he was talking about concerning this Faith which is alive in the believer. For he said, *“Yes, **it is a living, creative, active and powerful thing, this faith. Faith cannot help doing good works constantly. It doesn't stop to ask if good works ought to be done, but before anyone asks, it already has done them and continues to do them without ceasing. Anyone who does not do good works in this manner is an unbeliever. He stumbles around and looks for faith and good works, even though he does not know what faith or good works are. Yet he gossips and chatters about faith and good works with many words.**”*

Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures.

Remember, brother Branham preached a Message called, “Faith is the Victory”. And that is exactly what happens to those with faith. Faith makes the Word of God come alive to you and without Faith you are men most miserable. Show me a person with Faith and I will show you a life filled with victory.

Martin Luther continued by saying, *The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, **willingly and joyfully** do good to everyone, **serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace.***

And I would like to add, show me a person who does not enjoy serving others willingly, and who do not have joy in their life, even while in the midst of trials, and I will show you a person who does not have faith and thus they are lacking what it takes to enter the Kingdom of God, and in fact are not walking in the light, and are not seeing the Word revealed and made alive in their life.

Martin Luther again said, *Thus, it is just as impossible to separate faith and works as it is to separate heat and light from fire! Therefore, watch out for your own false ideas and guard against good-for-nothing gossips, who think they're smart enough to define faith and works, but really are the greatest of fools. Ask God to work faith in you, or you will remain forever without faith, no matter what you wish, say or can do.*

Let us bow our heads and hearts in prayer.