



Series: The Tangible Kingdom
Message: Stories and Metaphors
Date: April 19 & 20, 2008
Speaker: Pastor Steve Harling

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.”

Again, he asked, “What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.” Luke 13:18–21 (NIV)

Yeast and Mustard Seeds *Unlikely Metaphors for the Kingdom*

Mustard Seed—Why It’s Funny

- Mustard seeds don’t grow into big trees
- Jews were forbidden to plant mustard seeds in their gardens
- The last place you’d want birds perching would be in your garden

Yeast—Why It’s Funny

- Yeast is rarely thought of in a positive way
- No one really understood what yeast was or how it worked

Yeast, Mustard Seeds, & Ministry

“Church” Thinking	Kingdom Thinking
■ Attraction	■ Permeation
■ Institution	■ Relationship
■ Organized	■ Organic
■ Separation	■ Transformation
■ Big & flashy	■ Little & subtle
■ Keeping	■ Releasing
■ Tidy & controlled	■ Wild & messy
■ Beautiful (eagles)	■ Ordinary (fowls)
■ Safe & predictable	■ Risk & surprise
■ Striving for growth	■ Sowing seeds of love