

GROWTH AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Matthew 13:31-33

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³²It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened." (ESV)

INTRODUCTION

Growth is on the agenda!

1. GROWTH STARTS SMALL AND DEVELOPS INCREMENTALLY

The kingdom starts small and grows and grows until it covers the whole earth

- a. Be suspicious of explosive growth
- b. There is no such thing as instant success
- c. The ability to attract large crowds suddenly is not the sign of true growth in kingdom terms
- d. What starts small grows through
 - i. Seed – the quality of the message received (pure Word of God)
 - ii. Soil – the conditions of growth including preparation of soil and nurturing the process of growth
 - iii. Spirit – only God gives growth and he determines the levels of fruitfulness

2. GROWTH IS A DYNAMIC INHERENT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Growth and the Kingdom go hand in hand

- a. Growth is the flourishing of life
- b. The kingdom is a fruit-bearing phenomenon
- c. Growth is central to God's purpose for the kingdom

3. GROWTH IS MULTIDIMENSIONAL

Growth in the kingdom can be defined and identified in several different dimensions

- a. Upward direction of relationship with God
 - a. Walking in holiness, righteousness and truth

- b. Following the Lord wholeheartedly
 - c. Loving God above all things
 - d. Showing it by willing obedience
- b. Numerical dimension
 - a. Increase in numbers
 - b. Disciplined multitudes
 - c. Multiplication through discipleship
 - c. Global dimension
 - a. Global reach covering the whole earth
 - b. Light to the nation(s)
 - c. Restoration of communities, cities and nations
 - d. Eternal dimension
 - a. We work for the kingdom
 - b. Heaven and (more importantly) earth
 - c. What we do for to further the kingdom lasts
 - d. Nothing else lasts

CONCLUSION

Nothing new – just doing what we know

ACTION

1. COMMIT TO 20/20 VISION – Yes I'm in!

2. THOROUGHLY MASTER THE LEADERS MANUAL

- a. Get to grips with strategic planning
- b. Each section begins with teaching material covering each of the three areas of growth
- c. The goals are broken down into major steps you must take within specific time-frames
- d. There are different time frames running alongside concurrent activities
- e. Anticipates stumbling blocks, issues to look out for, to take into account
- f. Goals must be personalised and broken down to the particular goals you need to achieve so that together we accomplish the overall goals

3. USE THE WEB TOOL

- a. Four year goals – but the tool focuses on 2017
- b. Daily guide to stay on track to know what you need to achieve and by when
- c. A tool for you to work with your cell members