



Matthew 13:31–35 (NRSV)

³¹He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs 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 yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” ³⁴Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. ³⁵This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: “I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.”

Connect Guide

All It Takes

Week of Sunday, September 13, 2026

All original content by Rev. Dr. Chris Heckert unless noted.

Opening

1. **Pray:** Loving God, help us to recognize the potential of the small seeds of faith You have given us. Grant us the wisdom and grace to grow deep roots in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.
2. **Share:** What is one plant, flower, or houseplant you have tried to keep alive, and how did that turn out for you?

Dive Into the Text

1. Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a tiny mustard seed that grows into a large tree. Why do you think He chose something so small and seemingly insignificant to illustrate God's powerful Kingdom?
2. Verse 32 mentions that the tree grows large enough for birds to come and make nests in its branches. What does this detail suggest about how the growth of our faith impacts the people and community around us?
3. Verse 35 says Jesus spoke in parables to proclaim "what has been hidden from the foundation of the world." What does this reveal about how God reveals spiritual truth to those willing to listen?

Go Deeper

1. We learned that plant roots often grow deeper in dry ground as they search for water. When you experience spiritual or emotional "dry seasons," how do you practically seek God to ensure your roots are growing deeper rather than drying up?
2. It is easy to feel like our seed has been "scattered" in the wrong place or that our faith is too small. Is there an area in your life where you need to let go of ideal expectations and choose to "bloom where you are planted"?
3. Just like an orchid's beauty relies on healthy roots beneath the surface, our spiritual life depends on unseen daily habits. What is one small, practical habit you can embrace this week to nurture your inner spiritual roots?

Close in Prayer

Close your time in prayer together.