

## Parables of Value

In verses 44-46 Jesus gives us two other pictures of what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. What are they, and what do they tell us about the nature of the Kingdom?

How do these parables challenge us to live? What is the principle of investment in the Kingdom of Heaven illustrated here? (See Phil. 3:7-8.)

## Personal Application

In light of both sets of parables how do we understand our role in the growth of the Kingdom? (See John 12:24-26.)

In verse 51 Jesus asks the disciples if they have understood the parables. Why does he do this? What is he asking of each of us? How ought we share these “treasures”?

## What Is the Kingdom of Heaven Like? Parables of Growth and Value



*The Leaven*, Sir John Everett Millais 1829-1896

**Read Mark 4:26-29 and Matthew 13:31-34, 44-46, 51-52** (See also: *Mark:4:30-32 (mustard seed); Luke 13:18-19 (mustard seed); Luke 13:20-21 (yeast)*)

**Context Review:**

Where is Jesus teaching? Which of the parables seem to be spoken to the crowd? Which appear to be spoken to the disciples?

**Parables of Growth**

Read Mark 4:26-29. How does the Kingdom of Heaven grow? What accounts for its growth?

This parable presents us with a very natural, organic growth process. What light does this shed on how we should expect to see the Kingdom of Heaven operating in the world?

Matthew 13:31-32 states that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed. What mystery of the Kingdom does this teach? (See also Luke 17:5-6.)

What does verse 33 state that the Kingdom of Heaven is like? In what way is this true?

Read Daniel 4:19-23 and think about the parable of the mustard seed in the light of this passage. Would the crowd have taken this parable in a negative sense? What do you think Jesus intended to convey? (See also Dan. 2:34-35, 44-5; Eph. 1:22-23, Rev. 11:15.)

In Scripture yeast is usually a symbol of that which is evil or unclean (see Mark 8:15 and I Corinthians 5:6-8). What do you think that Jesus meant to convey in his use of yeast as a symbol for the Kingdom?

Why do you think that Jesus chose to use such loaded images to describe the Kingdom of Heaven?