

Thursday 11th June 2020

L.I – To learn to understand what a
parable is.

What is the Kingdom of God?

- The kingdom of God is the dominant teaching of Jesus. After his baptism Jesus announces that the kingdom of God had arrived...it was now!
- Christians take this belief seriously, however we also believe that it will come more fully after our death.
- Although the phrase 'Kingdom of...' is used to describe literal geographical places that are ruled by a King (for example the Kingdom of Tonga) God's kingdom has no boundaries or geography.
- It's a way of thinking and living rather than a physical place. Some people prefer to call it *God's time* or *God's era* or *God's reign* to try and avoid the suggestion that God's kingdom has a particular time, place or location.

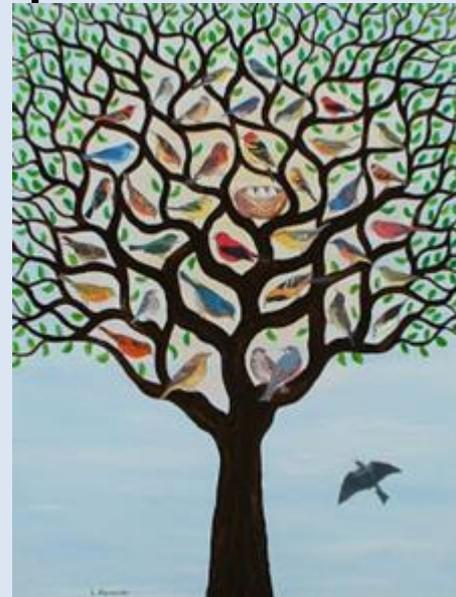
WHAT DOES THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED MEAN?

- Last lesson we looked at [Matthew 13:31-32](#) which tells the parable of the mustard seed:
- “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.”

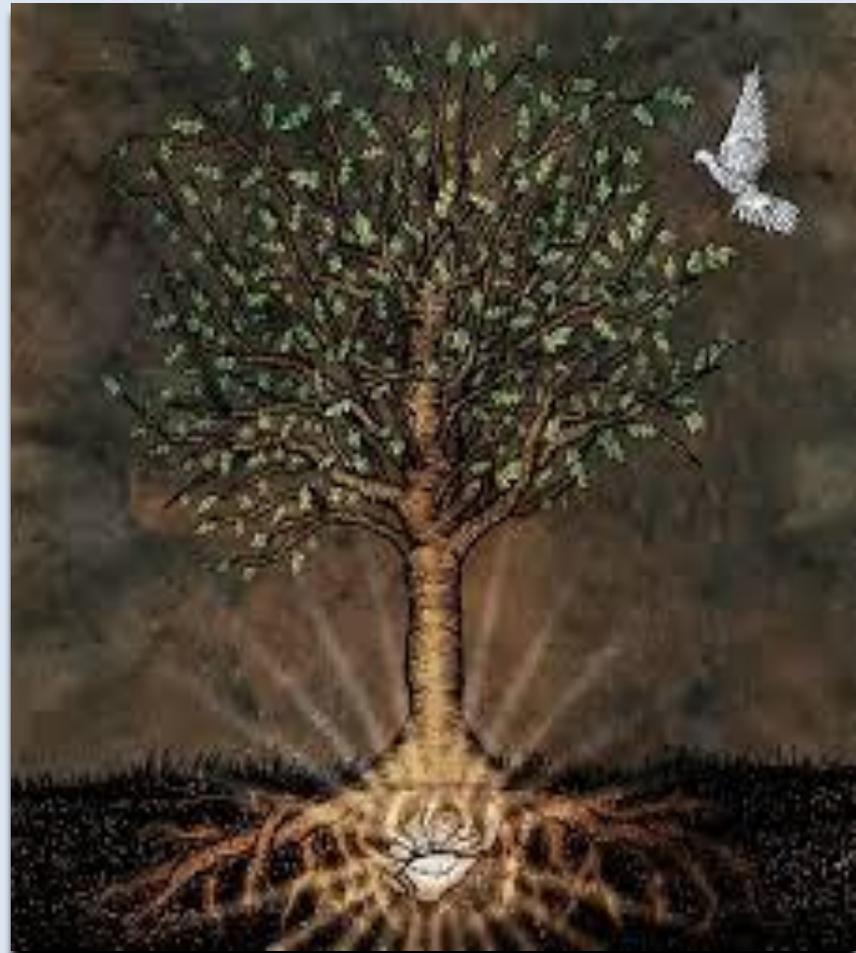
Today you will be interpreting the parable.

Brainstorm on your page for a moment about:

- What the purpose of a parable is?
- Why did Jesus tell parables?
- Are parables a good way of making a point?
Why/Why not?



- Using parables, Jesus related truth through intriguing stories with familiar settings.
- Our grasp of this parable hinges upon a correct understanding of its key elements:
 - the sower,
 - the mustard seed,
 - the great tree which grew from it
 - the birds which perched on its branches.



Interpret: How is the Kingdom of God like planting and growing seeds.

- Go over your initial brainstorm and cross out words which are 'not like' the kingdom (soil, water, sun) and circle the words which might 'be like' God's kingdom (hard work, needs patience, there will be disappointment, takes time etc).
- Summarise from this the meaning (truths) of the parable. Remember there will be more than one.

The first two elements are easily understood:

- The **sower** is Jesus Himself. He is the planter who came to atone for our sins so that we might become fruitful.
- The **mustard seed** was the smallest seed known at the time. While it becomes more of a shrub than a tree, it can reach about 10 feet high. The mustard seed represents the Gospel, starting very small but growing to reach millions throughout the world who will inherit the kingdom. The field represents all the people of the earth who will receive Him.
- The tree is rooted in Jesus Christ and has grown a harvest far beyond its initial planting.
- The tree offers a refuge for His faithful to rest in Him.
- A tree, whose large branches offer a sanctuary for birds, was a familiar Old Testament symbol for a mighty kingdom which gave shelter to the nations. The **tree** represents earthly greatness and refuge to the nations.
- The tiny mustard seed, growing to be a tree, symbolizes Jesus' offer of refuge and life in God's Kingdom.

Complete sentences

- Gods kingdom will ...
- In God's kingdom people will...
- God's kingdom is for...
- God's kingdom is...
- God's kingdom demands...
- God's kingdom values...
- God's kingdom happens when...
- God will be aking



TASK

- Draw/paint/collage your idea of what THE KINGDOM OF GOD looks like to you! Use the sentences you've written to inform what you think it is like!

