

WHY DOES GOD'S KINGDOM SEEM SO SMALL?
Encouragement for true disciples and warning for rejecters
Matthew 13:24-43

- I. **REALIZE THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM ARE VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED:** Jesus gives a parable which reveals He has an enemy, who has infiltrated His Kingdom, yet this will be dealt with at the harvest (24-30)
- II. **DON'T BE DECEIVED BY THE KINGDOM'S SMALL SIZE:** Jesus gives two parables which reveal His Kingdom will be the largest and permeate everything (31-33)
- A. The **parable of the mustard seed:** Things aren't what they seem, the kingdom now although the smallest, will be the largest (31-32)
- B. The **parable of the leaven:** Although Kingdom is small now, it will permeate everything (33)
- III. **WHY PARABLES FOR THE MULTITUDES?** *A Reminder* (34-35) cf 13:10-18
- IV. **BE ENCOURAGED OR BE WARNED... AT THE END OF THE AGE CHRIST WILL PURGE HIS KINGDOM OF SATAN'S CHILDREN AND HIS TRUE CHILDREN WILL SHINE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS:** Jesus explains the parable to His disciples (36-43)
- A. **Jesus gives His disciples the identity of those referred to in the parable (36-39)**
1. The one who sows the good seed is Jesus, the Son of man (37)
 2. The field is the world (38a) (not the church)
 3. The good seed are the spiritual children of the kingdom and thus the King (38b)
 4. The tares the enemy sowed are the spiritual children of the evil one (39a)
 5. The enemy who sowed them is the devil (39a)
 6. The harvest is the end of the age and the reapers are His angels (39b)
- B. **Jesus clarifies the main point of the parable: At end of the age Jesus will pull out and cast the devil's children in hell, then the righteous will shine (40-43)**
1. The spiritual children of the devil will be gathered out of the kingdom and cast into hell to be punished forever (40-42)
 2. Then the righteous will shine forth in their Fathers Kingdom (43a)
 3. You better listen, this is important (43b)