

The Tomorrow War

—Riddles from Q, Week 7—

Matthew 13:31-33//Mark 4:30-32//Luke 13:18-21 (NIV)

Matthew

³¹ He told them another parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree,

so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

³³ He told them still another parable:

“The kingdom of heaven

is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

Mark

³⁰ Again he said,

“What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?

³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted,

it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants,

with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

Luke

¹⁸ Then Jesus asked,

“What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?

¹⁹ It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden.

It grew and became a tree,

and the birds perched in its branches.”

²⁰ Again he asked,

“What shall I compare the kingdom of God to?

²¹ It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

If you would like to analyze these passages visually, you can: (1) highlight in blue material shared exactly in all three gospels (underlining in blue material that is similar but not exact); (2) highlight in yellow material that is shared exactly between Matthew and Mark but is not in Luke (underlining in yellow material that is similar but not exact); (3) highlight in green material that is shared exactly between Mark and Luke but is not in Matthew (underlining in green material that is similar but not exact); (4) highlight in red material that is shared exactly between Matthew and Luke but is not Mark (underlining in red material that is similar but not exact). The red material is Q material!

The Bottom Line:

_____ in Christ’s _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ - Kingdom
 ...by not _____ the Kingdom because its _____ looks _____.
 ...by _____ like the Kingdom is _____ and will _____.

On the These Parables (Blomberg, *Parables*, 395)

“To think that God’s kingly reign was embodied in Jesus and his ragtag band of followers must have seemed ludicrous to many. Although church adherents today number around two billion, the number of true kingdom servants is doubtless smaller and a noticeable minority among the total population of the world. Believers—through the Spirit’s power—have accomplished phenomenal good over the centuries; the tiny seed has grown into a remarkably large mustard bush, but to this day it is no majestic cedar tree. Presumably it never will be, because the way into the kingdom is narrow, while the broad way leads to death (Matt 7:13-14). When God’s people in one place become too numerous or his church too powerful, corruption almost inevitably sets in.... ‘Obsession with size is obscene.’”