



**Big Idea:**  
**God's kingdom is not just about ideas but also about power.**

**1.) The kingdom of God is the power of LIFE (v. 18-19).**

- The power of life is an absolutely unique power that belongs to the power of God alone.
- In the Parable of the Mustard Seed, Jesus is addressing the new **ORDER** of life that God offers us in Christ.
- Life in Christ it is so much greater than human life without Him that life without Him is, by comparison, a kind of living death. (Ephesians 4:17-19, Romans 6:17-18)
  - The question is not whether or not God's kingdom is real. It is! The question is whether we have attained the higher order of life that **ENABLES** us to see it.
  - In the kingdom of Christ, God awakens our souls to our real purpose in life, and He works in us radically to transform our motivations in all things (1 Corinthians 10:31).
  - Knowing Christ makes possible a whole new order of **FEELING** not possible without Him.
- The kingdom of God is the power to be **REBORN** into a new and higher order of thinking, willing, and feeling.
- Jesus came to redeem us from this living death and to usher us into the higher order of life in His kingdom (John 5:24).

**2.) The kingdom of God is the power of GROWTH (v. 19-21).**

## -- The Parable of the Mustard Seed

- The power we receive in God's kingdom is like an **ORGANIC** power that God plants in us (1 Peter 1:23, James 1:18-21).
- The kingdom of God is about God planting in us an order of existence that is entirely new and radically different (John 3:3).
- This power of new life from God is not an explosive power, but the gradual and persistent power of organic growth. This idea is called **PROGRESSIVE** sanctification.
- The kingdom of God is marked by steady growth in the likeness of Christ and in sincere love for God.

## -- The Parable of the Yeast

- When fresh, active yeast is mixed into dough, the dough cannot help but grow.
- In the same way, if the Holy Spirit dwells in us, then we cannot help but **GROW** (John 15:5-8).

## Application

- To you who might be discouraged because of sins that you are struggling to overcome, this text encourages you to be **PATIENT**.
  - The kingdom of God isn't about instant holiness but about gradual, continual, and progressive growth over time.
- To those who are disinterested in spiritual growth, this text presents a direct **CHALLENGE**.
  - *Why your faith is so much about ideas and so little about power?*
  - *Have any changes happened in your heart and in your life that are obviously the work of the power of God?*
  - If there is no growth, you may still need the Gospel.
- *Are you growing in your thinking, willing (acting) and feeling?*
- *Does the kingdom of God seem more real, more near, more important, and more alive to you over time?*