



**SERIES: Walking with Jesus**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Wednesday, November 22, 2023**

**Scripture: Luke 13:18-21**

**TITLE: What is the Kingdom of Heaven Like?**

One of my kids' favorite Saturday activities is to make a loaf of bread. They are amazed by how you can throw some ingredients into a bowl, and over a few hours, it doubles, triples, even quadruples in size. Then after baking, it turns into this delicious and beautiful loaf of bread.

Jesus would compare the kingdom of God to leavened dough. It, too, was a beautiful but often confusing image. What did he mean by that? What else is the kingdom like?

This is what Jesus said in Luke 13:18-21 (CSB).

He said, therefore, “What is the kingdom of God like, and what can I compare it to? It’s like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the sky nested in its branches.”

Again he said, “What can I compare the kingdom of God to? It’s like leaven that a woman took and mixed into fifty pounds of flour until all of it was leavened.”

Jesus has just been interrupted in the synagogue to heal a crippled woman. He has again displayed His divine power and authority in the kingdom. And then He continues teaching in parables. He says the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that is sowed. It grows, and the birds of the skies nest in its fullness.”

Okay, that’s weird. What does that mean? The kingdom of God is growing. It started off small. Twelve disciples who became 11 who became more would be the starting point of the kingdom. It will continue to grow into a large kingdom over time. It is growing now. The birds are likely people who benefit from the presence of Christians in the world expanding the kingdom. We’ve seen this in the forms of hospitals, universities, homeless shelters, and so on.

And then Jesus says the kingdom is like a little bit of leaven that is hidden in the dough. It works silently and powerfully till it spreads throughout the whole dough. What’s His point? Just like leaven transforms the dough, so too are Christians to transform the culture. Though hidden, their lives and testimonies should influence the world through the power of the Gospel each and every day.

So here’s my challenge for you today: scatter and spread. What are you doing today to scatter the seeds of the Gospel around you? How are you expanding the kingdom through your words? Scatter seeds today. How are you spreading the kingdom in your neighborhood, workplace,

school, hobby, and life? What is one thing you will do today to bring the kingdom of God to just one person?

When we scatter the seed and spread the kingdom, we will win the day.