



Sermon Questions: *The Parable of the Mustard Seed*

Date: *October 10, 2021* | Scripture: *Matthew 13:31-32*

1. How does Jesus' choice of image here challenge his original hearers' perceptions of what the kingdom of heaven should be?
2. How does Jesus communicate in this parable how much better his kingdom is than our expectations?
3. Make a list of some inaccurate expectations of our present experience of God's kingdom that you have encountered.
4. Look at those things and think of Stockdale's paradox.¹ How do we face these tensions as Christians without resorting to a pie-in-the-sky-when-we-die mentality? Consider the image and progression of the parable. How would be different if it was the parable of the deposit?
5. What do you know of the growth of Jesus' kingdom outside your immediate experience?

Inward Grace in Action

The questions below are a little more intimate and are meant to be discussed with a trusted friend or partner.

1. What were your expectations when you came to Christ? How have they played out?
2. How has Jesus' kingdom expanded in your life since it was planted? Have you seen growth in your own life or in friends' lives that reflects this parable?

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Genesis 15
- Psalm 1
- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Ezekiel 17
- Philippians 2
- Hebrews 11

Listen to the Spotify playlist, [The Storytelling Savior: Parables in the Gospel of Matthew](#)

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

You can also find additional resources on our website: capitalpres.org

¹ "You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—which you can never afford to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be." - Admiral Stockdale, former PoW, on right expectations when enduring hardship. (Quoted at McLean site in sermon)