

6/30/24

## Sermon – Artificial Intelligence and the Parable of a Mustard Seed

Scripture – See Below

Main Message – Another way to become lazy is to let anything or anyone else think for you.

*I want to test your interpretation of the parable of a mustard seed that is contained in some of the Gospels - ChatGPT*

The Parable of the Mustard Seed is a well-known teaching of Jesus found in the Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Here is a brief overview of the parable as it appears in each Gospel:

### Matthew 13:31-32 (NIV)

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 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."

### Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. 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 13:18-19 (NIV)

Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? 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."

## Interpretation

The Parable of the Mustard Seed is often interpreted as a teaching about the Kingdom of God, illustrating several key points:

### 1. Small Beginnings, Great Outcomes:

- **Small Start:** The mustard seed is described as the smallest of all seeds, symbolizing the humble and seemingly insignificant beginnings of the Kingdom of God.
- **Significant Growth:** Despite its small start, the mustard seed grows into the largest of garden plants, becoming a tree. This reflects how the Kingdom of God, although starting small with Jesus and a few disciples, grows exponentially to become vast and influential.

### 2. Inclusiveness and Shelter:

- **Birds in Branches:** The imagery of birds perching in the branches of the mustard tree suggests that the Kingdom of God provides refuge, shelter, and inclusiveness. It invites people from all nations and backgrounds to find rest and safety within its realm.

### 3. Transformation and Impact:

- **Transformation:** The growth of the mustard seed into a large plant signifies transformation. This transformation represents the change in individuals and communities when they embrace the teachings and values of the Kingdom of God.
- **Impact:** The mustard plant's significant presence in the garden signifies the far-reaching impact of the Kingdom of God. It starts small but eventually permeates and influences the entire world.

## Additional Insights