Growth And the Kingdom Of God

Matthew 13:31-35

Intro:

A. The kingdom of heaven includes the world.
   1. "The field is the world." V.38
   2. This is the place where we work.
   3. We are in the world. John 17:15

B. There are two forces at work in the Kingdom.
   1. "the good seed are children of the kingdom."
   2. "the tares are the children of the wicked ones."
   3. The Millennium will succeed because Satan is bound for 1,000 years.

C. How do these two forces grow at this time?
   1. One grows like a tree.
   2. One grows like leaven.

I. The Growth Of The Church.

A. The permission of Jesus.
   1. "As ye are going into all the world"
   2. "The field is the world."

B. "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:"
   1. grain = κοκκος = "a kernel," "a seed." The smallest unit of comparison used by the Jews.
   2. mustard = σιναμα = "a plant often growing in Palestine and growing to a considerable size."
   3. "which indeed is the least of all seeds:" v.32
   4. least = μικρος = of magnitude, small

C. "...but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."
   1. grown = ἀνξανω = "to increase", "to grow up"
   2. greatest = μεγας = large
   3. tree = δενδρον = "a living growing tree"
4. **lodge** = κατασκηνω = "to plant down a tent"
5. From a tiny beginning in Galilee the true church spreads into all the world."

II. The Growth Of Evil.

A. "**The Kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven,** v.33
   1. **leaven** = ζυμω = "to make ferment"
   2. It is figurative of: corrupt doctrines, Matthew 16:6, Infectious sin, 1 Corinthians 5:5-57, and false doctrine, Galatians 5:1-9

B. "...which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."
   1. Satan leavens the true church.
   2. It affects all true churches, some more than others. The faith will survive!

C. **Jesus fulfilled prophecy when He spoke in parables.**
   1. v.34
   2. v.35
   3. This is the method by which he revealed many kingdom principles.
   4. Psalm 78:2-3