

Biblical Notes — Matthew 13:31

31 — He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; (31. Ἀλλὴν παραβολὴν παρέθηκεν αὐτοῖς λέγων· ὅμοια ἔστιν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν κόκκῳ σινάπεως, ὃν λαβὼν ἄνθρωπος ἔσπειρεν ἐν τῷ ἄγρῳ αὐτοῦ)

"This parable is concerned with the enigmatic present manifestation of the Kingdom as embodied in Jesus' person. Its appearance may be characterized by weakness and apparent insignificance—but remember the mustard seed. The day will come when the Kingdom of God will surpass in glory the mightiest kingdoms of the earth, for it is the consequence of God's sovereign action...When the glory of that manifestation breaks forth before men they will be as startled as the man who considers the tiny mustard seed and the mighty shrub."

— William L. Lane, Commentary on the Gospel of Mark, New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974), 171–72; cf. also Cranfield, The Gospel According to Saint Mark, 169–70; Marshall, The Gospel of Luke, 561.