Luke 13:18-21 **November 15, 2026**

The Kingdom of God

In the Gospel of Luke, Luke generally sets the parables within the contexts they were told. They are explicitly connected to what immediately precedes Jesus' telling of the parable. The two kingdom parables we are looking at this morning follow that pattern. Having healed the bent woman in the synagogue on the Sabbath, Jesus "said therefore…" What follows are these parables that show us what one scholar has called "a dissonance of images."

The Kingdom of God is like…

1. Apparently insignificant things…
   a. A mustard seed - *sinapis nigra*
   b. Leaven? See Exodus 12:14-20

2. Implemented by ordinary people…
   a. An ordinary man and an ordinary woman
   b. Note Luke's emphasis on Jesus including both men and women as agents of his kingdom work (1:5-25 with 1:26-38), (2:25-35 with 2:36-38), (4:31-36 with 4:37-39), (7:1-10 with 7:11-17), (8:26-39 with 8:40-56), (13:18-19 with 13:20-21), and (15:4-7 with 15:8-10)

3. That produce miraculous results.
   a. The mustard tree or the cedar? Ezekiel 17:22-23; 31:1-6; Dan. 4:12,21
   b. The nations will shelter in this mighty mustard tree
   c. Leavened bread sufficient to feed 150 people

Application:

1. Do you embrace the kingdom Jesus came to bring?
2. Do you think of yourself as an insignificant seed without much potential - best left outside the garden? Or as yeast of questionable worth? Jesus sees you - and he can use you to do mighty things.