

## National Youth Conference 2014

Scripture Reading | Wednesday PM, July 23

(Matt. 13:31-33)

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**NYC Cabinet Members**



**Reader #1:** He put before them another parable “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...”

**Reader #2:** The kingdom of heaven is like mustard? Well I guess it is heavenly to put mustard on your hamburger. But I didn’t know Heinz was around back then.

**Reader #1:** Not mustard. A mustard seed. The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in her field.

**Reader #2:** Wait, wait, wait. How exactly do you sew with a mustard seed? And why is she sewing in a field? Wouldn’t that be easier to do in her house or dress shop or something?

**Reader #1:** No, not sewing with a needle, sowing as in planting. He was planting the seed.

**Reader #2:** Oh, okay. That makes more sense.

**Reader #1:** Anyway.. the mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

**Reader #2:** So the kingdom of heaven is kind of like my dad’s car?

**Reader #1:** What? Why?

**Reader #2:** Well, the birds seem to hang out there all the time.

**Reader #1:** You know, I think Jesus just included the birds to show how irresistible this shrub is. As it grows, more and more birds flock to its shelter.

**Reader #2:** Oh.. Ok. This sounds like something we talked about in my small group today, you see-

**Reader #1:** Look, That’s nice, \_\_\_\_\_, but we really need to finish reading this scripture, there’s about 2,300 people waiting on us right now.. He told them another parable: “The kingdom is heaven is like yeast that a man took—

**Reader #2:** (distracted) The kingdom of heaven is like any of various small, single-celled fungi of the phylum Ascomycota that reproduce by fission or budding, the daughter cells often remaining attached, and that are capable of fermenting carbohydrates into alcohol and carbon dioxide?

**Reader #1:** I- What? How do you know so much about yeast?

**Reader #2:** I bake a lot.

**Reader #1:** Ok...? As I was saying

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**Reader #2:** You mean as Jesus was saying.

**Reader #1:** Sure. As Jesus was saying. “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a man took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

**Reader #2:** Well, actually I’ve found that a ratio of two measures of flour per unit of yeast produces a fluffier and more desirable product. You see, when we were talking in small group-

**Reader #1:** Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables;

**Reader #2:** Oh I know all about parabolas. You know, when you get that proper ratio of yeast to flour, bread rises into the most beautiful parabolas.

**Reader #1:** Parables! The word is parables. Without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: “I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.” There. Done. Now let’s go.

**Reader #2:** But wait! I still didn’t get to talk about my small group!

**Reader #1:** Look, we already finished the scripture

**Reader #2:** Please! Oh please, please, please?

**Reader #1:** (sigh) Fine. But make it quick.

**Reader #2:** Well I know so much about yeast because my mom and I used to bake bread together and then give it to a local soup kitchen. My youth group wanted to get involved, so now once a month we get together and bake a ton of bread. I was talking about that with my small group, and a couple of the people there thought it was such a good idea that they want to start doing the same thing with their youth groups!

**Reader #1:** That’s great, but what does that have to do with the mustard seed?

**Reader #2:** Don’t you see? Something that started so small has spread out and attracted more people than I ever imagined it would when it was just me and my mom baking every now and then. And the more people it touches, the more people want to participate. I think maybe that’s what Jesus meant by the mustard seed parabola.

**Reader #1:** Hmmm. That actually sounds like a pretty good parable. And you know what? I think that baking bread for the soup kitchen is actually a pretty good idea. I think I’ll tell my youth group about it, too.

**Reader #2:** Ok, ok. We can work out the details back stage. But lets go. You’ve already taken up way to much time.

