



Perley Lutheran Parish  
June 13th 2021  
Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 11



Gathering Hymn: Here in This Place  
Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
Now is the darkness, vanished away  
See, in this space, our fears and our dreaming's,  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,  
Gather us in - the blind and the lame.  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

'Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
Not in some heaven, light years away,  
But here in this place, the new light is shining;  
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in - and hold us forever,  
Gather us in - and make us your own.  
Gather us in - all peoples together,  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

#### Welcome and Announcements

Margie's – Visitation 5-7 Monday at Korsmo w/prayer service at 6:30. Funeral at 11am on Tuesday Kirkebo  
If you would like to help with the funeral connect with Rose  
Jean Emery – member of Nora - Hospice care at Evergreen in Fargo  
Where's Michele – Sorry about Wednesday  
Kirkebo council today after the service  
Next Sunday will be at Nora  
Food Shelf/Reach out

#### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.  
**Amen.**

God, our provider,

**Help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, +the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen**

#### Prayer of the Day

**O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 (Read Responsively)

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; **to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,** to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. **For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands, I sing for joy.** The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. **They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.** In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, **showing that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.**

First Reading Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel, I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Holy Gospel according to Mark 4:26-34, **Glory to you O Lord**

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples. The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

Have you ever seen a mustard seed? Look. See how tiny these seeds are? They are the smallest seeds I have ever seen. A mustard seed is so small that if you were holding one in your hand and dropped it on the ground, you might not be able to find it. Even though the mustard seed is one of the smallest of all seeds, when it is planted in the ground, it grows into a plant so large that birds can perch on its branches and can even build their nests in it. I have read that these tiny seeds can produce a plant that grows ten feet high or more!

Jesus told a parable comparing the mustard seed to the kingdom of God. Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade."

How is that a picture of the kingdom of God? Well, when Jesus first began his earthly ministry, he had no followers. The Bible tells us that Jesus was walking along the shore of the sea of Galilee when he saw two fishermen, Peter and his brother Andrew, casting their nets. "Come, follow me," Jesus said to them. They immediately followed Jesus. As they continued on their way, they saw two other brothers, James and John, mending their nets. Jesus called them and they immediately left their nets and followed him. One by one, Jesus called his disciples until there were twelve of them. That is still a pretty small beginning, isn't it? Jesus sent out the twelve and they brought others to Jesus and the kingdom of God grew. From a very small beginning, the kingdom of God has grown and grown until it has spread over the entire earth.

To get a better understanding of what this story teaches, I took an apple, cut it open, and took out the seeds. There were five seeds in my apple. Now, imagine that we planted these seeds and each grew into an apple tree. How many apples do you think each tree might produce? Fifty? A hundred? Two hundred? I read that an apple tree can produce from 150 to 300 apples each year and that an apple tree will produce apples for about fifty years. Just think how many apples that is! It isn't hard to see how we have enough apples to feed the entire world, is it?

Jesus started growing the kingdom of God with a handful of disciples. Every follower of Jesus is a part of the kingdom and that means that you and I are a part of God's kingdom. Each time we tell someone about Jesus, we are helping to grow the kingdom. Isn't it great to know that we can have a part in growing God's kingdom?

### Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

I don't know about yours but my garden is really struggling this year. I did plant different things than I'm used to though so maybe my expectations are a little off. With the shortage of canning lids this past year (I just got some lids thanks to a secret friend) I still have bags and bags of frozen tomatoes to process into salsa so I didn't plant the salsa vegetables like usual. I am trying some new veggies this time – some peas, beans, radishes (yuck – but my mom loves them), carrots and cucumbers. First it was so cold for that week or two – who would imagine worrying about freezing our gardens in May? And then we go weeks and weeks with no rain and horribly hot days – I can understand why some of these seeds are perhaps trying to stay in the ground to escape the elements. So I wait and wait and wait patiently to see some of these begin to grow.

Today's Gospel actually bring us not one but two short parables and both of them are about seeds. They are also both about the Kingdom of God. So with that kingdom of God in mind let's take a look at what we are being taught in these passages today.

Think for a moment way, way back to the early settler days and what power they must have felt to hold a handful of seeds in their hands. Yes, the seeds are small but they can produce enough food to feed a family, and many families and villages and even towns. Certainly the seed contained mighty power within it with enabled itself to accomplish great things. When you think about it – it really is a miracle in how we can plant the tiniest little seed into the ground and weeks or months later harvest a crop. Sure there is science that can explain how the seed is transformed chemically – we all remember the lesson on photosynthesis don't we? But when you think about it – there are soooo many variables that can affect the seed that it really is something miraculous that allows that seed to sprout and grow.

Think for a moment about the seed like this – it has a power - a force that is released after the seed has been planted. That force moves it from a seed, to a plant to bearing a fruit or vegetable. But wait, many of you are, were or grew up in this farming region, so this really isn't anything new to you and what exactly does it have to do with us today? Well truthfully, this parable really isn't given to us as a gardening lesson – which is good because I don't see any secret gardening tricks to help my beans and peas start producing. No in fact, the seed that Jesus is talking about here isn't a literally seed at all like these in this little bottle of mine. The seed that Jesus is talking about is the Word, God's word, and that with the power of the Word planted in us we too can see growth and fruit-bearing characteristics of Him.

These parables teach us. They remind us just how the Word and power of God acts in our lives each and every day. It tells us that the growing of our faith isn't just about working hard to please Him or trying harder and harder to be like Him but rather that the Word gives us growth. That God is working with in us as our Christian faith continues to grow and grow. Which is good news because there are times of course when we attempt to reduce and dial back our Christian lives in

order to keep up with the things we “should” do here instead. I should be kind. I should be reading the Bible more. I should be praying more. You know those things that we think about doing but allow our commitments and temptations to take us away from even when we try our hardest.

These parables are good news for us in that they allow us to take a good look at ourselves when we have those moments questioning where exactly is God in our lives and what has He done for us lately? We have those moments when we don't really seem to feel his presence, we wonder how we can be good disciples when we really don't see many characteristics of Him in ourselves or even when we find ourselves not glorifying God when things do indeed need rejoicing.

Growing as a Christian has much more to do with allowing the Word of God to be planted into our lives. We get that Word planted each and every time we worship. It is planted when we pick up the Holy book and read or when we serve our neighbors and our communities. When God's Word is planted in our lives it take root and it grows and it grows.

What about “the Kingdom of God is like.....” which is how our two parables began today. Who brings God's kingdom into existence for us? Jesus does during his ministry – the years that he walked amongst us proclaiming that the kingdom was at hand. After all, the truth is that these parables really are all about Him. The seed is Jesus Christ planted into the ground. Coming to Earth and being buried. And who is the first fruit then, well it's Christ of course as he rose. And just as our Gospel tells us “the farmer does not know how” things sprout and grow, we too really do not know how Jesus died and rose again but it doesn't really matter. It doesn't matter that we know HOW- it just matters that we know that it did. That from the death of Jesus, he arose and because of that we too will rise and have eternal life.

Think also for a moment then that this parable is about us too. Jesus is the vine and we as members of the church are the branches. How is it that we grow? Well we feed our faith by nurturing and creating purposeful time in order to love our God. Just like the farmers need to fertilize and make sure the seeds get water and how the seeds need light to help them grow, we too need that. The Word of the Lord is our nourishment. The Word fertilizes us and encourages us, it gives us light and keeps us out of the darkness. The Word gives you and me newness of life and waters us and sustains us.

Here's the good news! God wants us to experience the abundance of life that was promised to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. God wants us to be seeds and be strong and fruitful. He wants us to be faithful and loving Christians. It God's gift to each and every one of us. But God also invites us to stop trying harder – trying harder actually isn't going to MAKE us grow. We don't get to be a NBA player just by trying harder at basketball, do we? Instead we need to allow God's Word to work IN us. We need to rest in his loving arms and let our faith and love of the Lord grow and grow and grow in us after we have nourished it. Amen

Hymn of the Day: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come Thou fount of every blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace  
Streams of mercy never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it  
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily, I'm constrained to be  
Let Thy goodness like a fetter  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above

#### Apostles Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen***

Prayers of the people: (Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.)

Let us come before the Triune God in prayer.

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest of mountains, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places that suffer drought. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer and are lonely and lost. We lift up the Thompsons family as they prepare to say their final goodbyes to our beloved friend Margie. We also lift up Jean and Marlis, Sonya and Roger, Terry and Jeff, Evonne and Kirk, Byron and Whitney and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts..... Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We lift all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. Amen

#### Meal

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

#### Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

***Our father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

#### Invitation to Communion and Offering

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

#### After Communion Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen**

#### Blessing

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, +be upon you now and forever. In the Name of the Father, and the +Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

#### Sending Song: Here I am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky. I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save  
I who made the stars of night. I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night  
I will go, Lord. If You lead me  
I will hold Your people in my heart

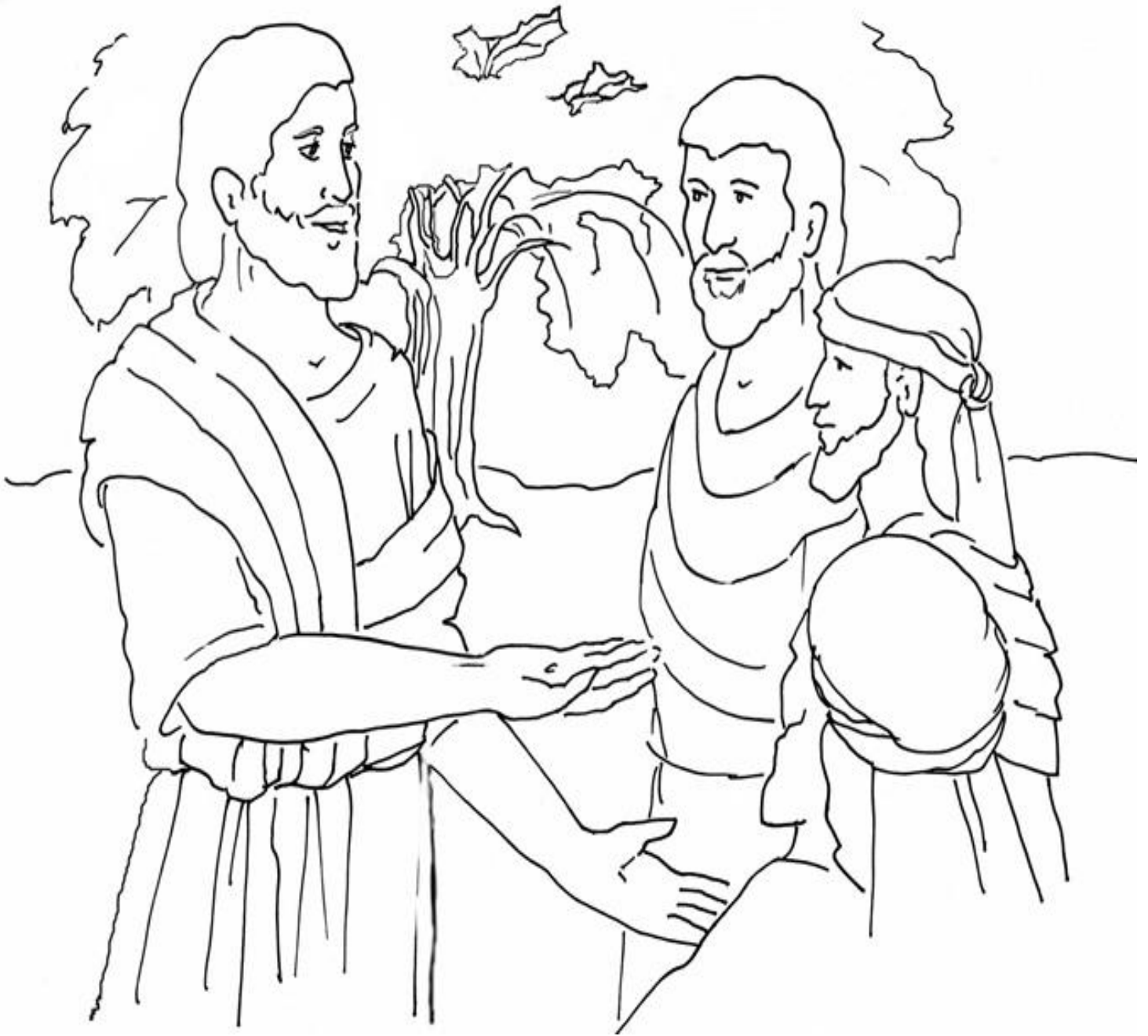
I, the Lord of wind and flame. I will tend the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide. 'Til their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night  
I will go, Lord. If You lead me  
I will hold Your people in my heart

Dismissal – Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

#### Mark Your Calendars:

- Sunday, June 20th – Services at 9am at Nora. (live streamed and in-person)
- Sunday, June 27th – Services at 9am at Kirkebo. (live streamed and in-person). Outdoor services, please bring a chair.

Pastor Michele Jenson: Phone: 701-261-0998    Email: <a href="mailto:mjenson001@luthersem.edu">mjenson001@luthersem.edu</a> Web Page: <a href="http://www.perleyparish.org">www.perleyparish.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:perleyparish@gmail.com">perleyparish@gmail.com</a>
---



### The Parable of the Mustard Seed

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."

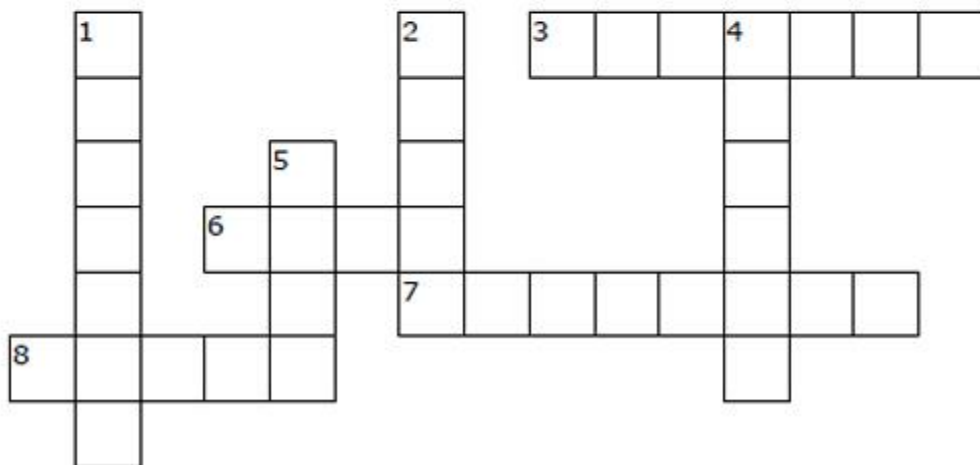
Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)

# The Parable of the Mustard Seed

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."

Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Mark 4:30-32



## ACROSS

3. Bigger than any of the others
6. A small grain of a plant placed in the ground for growing another plant
7. Not as big as any of the others
8. A living thing that grows in the ground, usually with leaves or flowers

## DOWN

1. A story told by Jesus to help explain his teachings
2. An animal that has wings and is covered with feathers
4. An area where plants are grown
5. The place where birds lay eggs or give birth to their young

SEED  
SMALLEST

PARABLE  
NEST

BIRDS  
GARDEN

LARGEST  
PLANT



# The Parable of the Mustard Seed

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."

Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 4:30-32



T Z Z P S M K T D V T T J C S  
 D W R T S X D G A R D E N L B  
 D F D D L H X E S R O G J Y E  
 S R R O D M A P E G N L V W D  
 M I P J B N Z D I U N E S T S  
 B S U S R P W C E J C F Y U M  
 N M P L A N T S Z T W O S W U  
 K A K H N D O D V S P E P A S  
 I L L I C G O U G U J Z L L T  
 N L O H H R W F R V Z W A A A  
 G E Y P E O A D G Y L I N R R  
 D S U A S U K C R Y H N T G D  
 O T E Z N N Y O P X R C E E O  
 M B O E W D T L H I E P D S T  
 N F Z O D S K P V C W J O T D

BIRDS	SHADE	NEST	MUSTARD	BRANCHES
JESUS	GARDEN	PLANTED	LARGEST	PLANTS
STORY	GROUND	SEED	SMALLEST	KINGDOM

# The Parable of the Mustard Seed

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." Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



T	E	G	B	W	J	C	D	M	F	A	R	L	Q	Y	O	H	X	Z	U	S	V	P	K	I	N
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 23-11-12-11-4-13-2 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 24-25-26-3-8-16-9 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 9-20-21-1-11-12-8 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 21-2-2-8 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 23-13-11-26-1-2-8 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 21-9-11-13-13-2-21-1 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 13-11-12-3-2-21-1 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 23-13-11-26-1-21 \_\_\_\_\_
9. 4-25-12-8-21 \_\_\_\_\_
10. 26-2-21-1 \_\_\_\_\_

PLANTED	MUSTARD	KINGDOM	NEST	PLANTS
SMALLEST	PARABLE	BIRDS	LARGEST	SEED