

Title: GROWTH, VALUE, PERFORMANCE, MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52  
(Chatham, NJ; 08/03/14, AM) [D – Inductive]

Theme: Another series of parables emphasizes the growth potential of the Kingdom of God, its value, and the performance needed to gain entrance.

Purpose: To reveal the conclusions that can be drawn from each of these parables.

Introduction:

1. More parables reveal characteristics about the Kingdom of God.
2. Remember that the Kingdom can be thought of in several ways: the church (its present reality), heaven (the future consummation), and the rule of God in our hearts.
3. In these parables Jesus uses images to speak about how it grows, how valuable it is, and how we have to perform in order to be chosen.

## I. Growth of the Kingdom, 31-33

### A. Grain of mustard seed

1. Small but grows into a large plant
2. Birds find a home in its branches
3. The amount of growth exceeds the original size

### B. Leaven in bread

1. Small, as the mustard seed is small, it still affects all the flour
2. "A little leaven leavens the whole lump," 1 Cor. 5:6
3. Negative connotation: "Beware the leaven of the Pharisees," refers to their teachings
4. Positive: the right influence can also have a profound effect

### C. Conclusions

1. Don't underestimate the power of the Gospel
2. What seems insignificant to many listeners will still have a profound impact
3. We have an opportunity with the "no religion" crowd (see copy)
4. Plant the seed of the Gospel, hide its teaching in the hearts of unbelievers—allow it to grow

## II. Value of the Kingdom, 44-46

### A. Treasure Hidden in a Field

1. By definition a treasure is valuable
2. The man who finds it sells all that he has to buy the field
3. He could have just taken the treasure, but he doesn't do that

### B. Pearl of Great Price

1. A merchant finds what he has been looking for all of his life
2. He sells all that he has to own the pearl

### C. Conclusions

1. Jesus assumes that the Kingdom has more value than anything else
2. Each man invests his entire fortune in the things they find
3. The Kingdom of God is worth more than anything else we can possess

## III. Judgment and Performance, 47-50

### A. Separating the good from the bad

1. Fishermen keep only that which is good

2. Can you see them sorting through the catch?
  3. This is what the angels will do
  4. This sounds a bit detached: the souls of men are like fish?
  5. But God is fair and impartial
- B. Judgment separates and distinguishes
1. We have shades of the Parable of the Weeds
  2. God distinguishes the good from the bad
  3. They are separated
- C. Conclusions
1. Judgment is coming, Romans 2:6-11
  2. Based on merit, nothing else
  3. We will receive from God what is right

Conclusions:

1. Growth, value, performance: not just a lesson in monetary investing
2. The Kingdom is growing in many parts of the world, and it can still grow here. Plant small seeds.
3. You'll own nothing more valuable. Get it, and don't throw it away.
4. Doing good will give you a good performance review on the Day of Judgment. Do good.
5. Come, join the Kingdom today.