

Luke 13:18-21, "Failed Campaign?"

✚ Jesus is telling us about His kingdom would progress. Mustard seeds are small, and leaven or yeast is invisible. That's not how you run a political campaign is it? You don't go small, you go big. It started like we might expect the angelic announcements to Mary and Joseph. But then nothing happened, or nothing visible. Born in a tiny town, in a stable, only parents and some animals in attendance, angels announce it but just to a handful of shepherds. Jesus spends the next 30 years of His life in obscurity in a backwater community named Nazareth. Is this how you run a political campaign? It seems Jesus failed politics 101 because He refuses to let them make Him king, shoots His mouth off about their religion and way of life, preaches repentance when they wanted Him to organize them into an army. What was He doing? This wasn't how you run a political campaign. Even His own brothers tried to give Him campaign advice, John 7:3-5. He only reveals Himself to a dozen handpicked followers who were not exactly the who's who of that culture. Where were the trumpets and horses and chariots and conquering armies and throne and the palace and the appointments? Pilate asked, "are you the king of the Jews?" because it wasn't clear, not the way you ran a campaign in his eyes. The placard they put over His head at His crucifixion was to mock Him, "The King of the Jews," in everyone's estimation, He was no king. After His death and resurrection, the disciples think, "Maybe now?," Acts 1:6. He tells His followers to not go anywhere until the Holy Spirit comes, when He does, there is only 120 of them gathered in that upper room. By this time everybody is getting the idea that this won't be like any campaign the world has ever seen. This kingdom, Jesus said, was to be equated to a mustard seed and leaven in a lump of dough, tiny and unseen but very pervasive and powerful. That tiny seed has turned into a huge tree and that leaven has leavened the entire lump.

1. A mustard seed campaign.

- ✓ Jesus tells us that it is the smallest seed. He was simply saying that among the seeds under cultivation for vegetable purposes, it was, by far, the smallest. The Greek word here for seed was one that referred exclusively to garden vegetables. This was something that was well known to the people of that day. The point Jesus is making is that this campaign will start small but not stay small. The mustard seed, the smallest seed under cultivation, became the biggest plant. Nothing visible until one day you go out and say, "Hey where did that big plant come from?," Revelation 11:15 it will end big!

2. A Leaven campaign.

- ✓ Yeast is a microorganism like a Bacteria in size, but it is classified as a fungus. It's everywhere and yet, seemingly, nowhere because we cannot see it. You can't see it, but it doesn't mean it's not there or not working. Three measures of meal was about fifty pounds dry, plus water would make it around 100 pounds of dough. They would take a tiny pinch of leavened dough and mix it with 100 pounds of fresh dough to leaven the whole thing. What would that tiny pinch ever do? Just watch! Once the leaven is in there, there is no stopping it.

3. The leaven along with the mustard seed are perfect illustrations of the Kingdom of God and Jesus' kingdom campaign.

- ✓ Like a mustard plant towering over head, (a mustard plant could grow to 12 or 15 feet, so big that birds would nest there). So, Christianity has become huge, the largest religion in world for a long time! It literally reaches to the ends of the world. Christianity is huge, and the world has made a nest in her branches. The birds weren't a part of the mustard plant, but they benefitted greatly from its shade. How has the world benefitted from Christianity? Democracy, rule of law, civil rights, due process, voting, private ownership, etc. almost all that we hold dear is due to Christianity. Western civilization, the greatest civilization, the most advanced, with the most comforts, finest medicines, best education has all grown in the shade of Christianity. By the same respect, Christianity has leavened the world. They had no money, armies, propaganda machines, no people in high places, no voting. 1st Corinthians 1:21, despite the detractors and those who say we cannot rely on the Bible, they cannot deny it's influence! The Yeast of the Word of God, like physical yeast that once introduced cannot be stopped, has spread everywhere. Once a piece of dough was exposed to yeast, there was no taking it back. Likewise, our job is to expose the world to the yeast of God's word, God' supernatural Word that cannot and will not return void.

"The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it." Isaiah 55:10-11.