

Week 19

January 25, 2009

How 'Bout Some Mustard on That?

The Kingdom Parable of Jesus

Matthew 13:31-32

1. Read Matthew 13:31-32
2. Do you like mustard on your hot dogs and hamburgers? Why or why not? Do you prefer traditional yellow or something spicier and sweeter?
3. When did the “mustard seed” of faith (the message of the kingdom of God) find a home in your heart? Did it take root and grow right away, or was it dormant for a season?
4. When your faith did begin to grow, what were the conditions or influences that made this growth spurt happen?

9. Jesus indicates that persecution will be the norm for Christians. Today, it seems like Christians can coexist with the world and suffer very little interference. Are you ever persecuted? Why or why not? How do you respond when you are persecuted, or when other Christians are?

For the hardcore group:

The church could either be viewed as one very big tree, or as an orchard of smaller ones. What does a healthy tree or orchard look like?

- *Birds of the air find refuge and shade. Who are the birds? What does the best kind of refuge look like?*
- *Healthy mustard trees reproduce and spread their seed profusely. What makes a church reproductive?*
- *How does a healthy church season the community...area ... world? Are there things that we do and represent that make us catalytic toward real life, health and change in the culture around us?*
- *What causes some churches to lose their reproductive zeal, or their healthy seasoning, or their standing as a place of refuge and shade for people in need?*