

## **A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE**

### **GOD'S KINGDOM GROWS**

Luke 13:18-21 "He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches. And again, he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened."

The Kingdom of God appeared in a small, insignificant manner in the coming of His Son as Savior of the world. From the growth of a seed implanted in Mary by the Holy Spirit came a baby born in an insignificant village and a non-descript barn. Hinting of the greatness to come, God's Son, the baby born in Bethlehem was visited by Magi from the East and honored with precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Growth from virtually nothing to immensity is embedded in the message of the Gospel found in the New Testament of the Holy Scriptures. A simple word, a little water, a bit of bread and wine become instruments of the Holy Spirit and under His blessing caused two, twelve, seventy-two, hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands, millions and billions to confess that Jesus is Lord.

A man sows a mustard seed. A woman adds a bit of yeast to a lump of dough. These two events seem mundane, unimportant and insignificant. Look at the result! The tiniest of seeds, the mustard seed, produces a tree in which birds build nests and make their home. The yeast multiplies, permeates all of the dough causing it to rise and become sustenance for those who eat the bread created by the yeast.

God built into His creation the miraculous power of seed to grow and leaven to cause dough to rise. Not you, nor any person, not even a scientist, only God causes this growth to occur. Simple words, common water, earthly elements of bread and wine connected to God's power creates faith that grows and produces fruits of righteousness. It is a mystery how God grows His Kingdom. It is through His power using common everyday earthly substances that God creates and

expands His Kingdom. This miracle He has worked in your heart by the power of His Holy Spirit. You, by His grace are members of His body!

Prayer: Bless, O Lord, Your word and sacraments that more and more people come to faith in Jesus and receive Your gift of everlasting life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I love Your kingdom, Lord. The place of Your abode,  
The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.

Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav'nly ways,  
Its sweet communion, solemn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.

I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev'ry land,  
Dear as the apple of Your eye And graven on Your hand.

For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers ascend;  
For them my cares and toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.

Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv'n  
The brightest glories earth can yield And brighter bliss of heav'n.  
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