

# Case of the Ambitious Seed

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 13:31-32.

B. Scripture never uses a symbol in two inconsistent ways.

## II. The parable of the sewer.

A. There are five symbols that are used.

1. The sewer. This is the Lord Himself.

2. The field.

3. The seed.

a. This is the fantastic message the Lord sewed.

b. The mustard seed is used here, which is irritating and biting.

c. The message of the kingdom of God is intended to stir people up.

d. The mustard seed is also used to symbolize smallness.

e. The gospel is thought to be small by the world.

4. The tree.

a. It would not be expected for a mustard seed to produce a tree.

b. A tree always stands for authority, power, and dominion.

c. It is not about the church—the focus is due the Lord.

5. The birds. These are evil ideas that have made residence in God's tree.

B. What we must do.

1. We must maintain the pungency of the mustard seed.

2. We must maintain a low profile, not self-aggrandizing ourselves.

3. One day God will cast out the unnatural growth among us.

## **Application questions:**

1. How does Jesus characterize the kingdom in such a way that some might reject it? Explain.

---

---

2. What danger does the tree symbolize in the metaphor?

---

---

3. Which message about the mustard seed stood out to you? How can your week look different as a result?

---

---