

There's More

Part 3: The Point of Insignificance

Matthew 13:31-33

**Intro Teaser:**

**Intro Song:**

**Welcome:**

**ME:** Share memory...

When kids were littler: two in diapers, one potty training... had just changed a blow out, a regular diaper, and cleaned up the potty training one... then went out to pick up after our two dogs...

Thinking, "Seriously? This is life now?" Not the dynamic life I had envisioned...

What's the point? Just get through this phase and then deal with another?

**WE:** Ever have similar thought? What's the point? How does anything we do matter?

What is any of this actually going to do in the long run?

- Cleaning up after other beings (constant laundry, etc)
- Working to earn money that does nothing when you die?
- Working so hard at relationships that always take more time & energy
- School assignments after school assignments.

And honestly, most of us are going to die not really having accomplished much to change the world and we'll be forgotten in 100 yrs or less.

Most of us don't even know who this guy is (**Benjamin Harrison**) and he was president of the United States! What chance do we have?

**We want significant lives but most of life seems insignificant.**

How do our common/insignificant lives really matter? Deep down we want them to, though. How can that desire become a reality? It is possible!

In this series I've been telling you... You are invited to be a part of a revolution (the Kingdom of God) that is changing millions of lives everyday.

You are invited to have a life of meaning and purpose that will outlast every nation and culture in the world.

Buuuut... it's an invisible revolution. It's counter-intuitive. It looks nothing like what we would expect.

Last episode... talked about how Jesus said we find more by choosing to become less... so is that all there is? Just be less and be ok with being insignificant... honestly, what is that going to accomplish?

Seems ludicrous, but... **The Kingdom of God revolutionizes the definition of significant.**

**GOD:** Jesus knew this would be a hard concept to swallow so he gave us some illustrations to help us grasp it...

### **Set the scene...**

Roman Empire has conquered known world. Anyone who resists is utterly destroyed.

Occupy Israel but allow them to keep religions/customs... allow the Jewish religious leaders to keep the common people in line.

See themselves as the gatekeepers to God. To go against what they say/teach is to be kicked out of culture/religion... to be on your own.

With the Empire and Religious Elite looming over and controlling every part of life... enters a Jewish rabbi, from a nowhere town. With 12 inexperienced, mostly uneducated men following him.

This rabbi makes a lot of claims... one main one- he is bringing in the promised Kingdom of God... A kingdom more powerful than Rome, more significant and true than the religion of the leaders...

Crazy. How is this going to do anything? Who are they to start a world changing revolution in the face of such powers?

To answer this Jesus gives two very simple, small explanations...

**V. 31-32** Here is another illustration Jesus used: *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches."*

Is it the smallest, for them at the time probably... point is the size (show seed)... Small/nothing... but what starts out as insignificant grows into something large enough to provide shelter for birds (show full-sized mustard plant).

Doesn't happen right away... starts as nothing, dead in the ground, slowly grows and grows and grows until you can't help but notice it.

Another...

**V. 33** Jesus also used this illustration: *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough."*

**Yeast**- Tiny single-celled microorganism. Once in dough invisible.

But it permeates the entire thing... can't see it at all but the inner change is doing some big work...

Enough bread to feed about 100-150 people.

## **What is Jesus getting at?**

For immediate audience/Big picture... the beginning of the revolution, What Jesus and the boys (and women) are doing, might seem like nothing at that moment but wait and see...

And of course we see what started with this little group has turned into a world-shaping movement.

But if we zoom in on the Kingdom and our place in it...there's more...

## **In the Kingdom of God, significance is found in our purpose not our size.**

**Mustard seed**- barely a meal for a bird... grows into something that can house many birds.

**Yeast**- Tiny but **multiplies** exponentially and completely changes and affects the large lump of dough allowing it to feed many people.

We think that bigger/louder/more is better/significant

The little/mundane/annoying/painful times- waste of time... how is this going to do anything for me?

**Kingdom of God**- Every task/trial is given significance... everytime we choose to be less than it has significance in the Kingdom of God. And it can have an outsized impact that we will likely never see in our lifetimes.

**My kid story**- Showing love of God in order for them to discover, enjoy, share. Show love to wife b/c she doesn't have to do it all. And teaching me to serve

**Work/School**- Give chance to show love of God, example of peace/joy/patience.

**Relationships**- Teaching you that love is a choice... using you to help make other better.

What you are doing might not seem to have any significance right now...

But what seems insignificant/small is given eternal significance in the Kingdom of God.

One little seed... might be the thing that changes everything.

- Amazing thing about a little seed... has potential to multiply into an entire forest.
- We don't know how God will multiply the "insignificant" actions/efforts/moments

## **God multiplies our insignificance to unimaginable significance.**

But how do we know? "I don't see anything happening..."

**Results**: Notice the inevitability in these examples...

Start as something insignificant... can't see any change right away but...

Once the seed is planted it starts growing immediately and nothing stops it from growing

Once the yeast is added it immediately starts dividing and permeates everything and nothing can stop it.

### **Invisible doesn't mean insignificant.**

Might seem small but is unstoppable. Progress might be slow but the outcome is already guaranteed.

### **YOU:**

#### **Read: Eph. 2:10**

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

- Not always big things... most of the time we miss them b/c we think they are little and insignificant.
- "Masterpiece", *poema*, poem. Doing things with his attitude is another word in the poem that he is writing to the world.

#### **Pray: Where do I need a "significant" change of view?**

- What seems insignificant to you but God might be using it for something so much bigger
- Work, home, friendship?

Don't see progress? Take your steps and let God take care of the heavy lifting. (someone planted, someone worked yeast through the dough... God did the rest)

### **The kingdom of God brings true significance to what we think is insignificant.**

**WE:** Little group of Jews. Against a mighty empire and entrenched religious and cultural order... brought a revolution that has changed, and continues to change, the world.

Invited to join... B/c in Kingdom of God...

### **A life of significance is waiting for us in every insignificant moment.**

Discover your role, enjoy it, and share the life Jesus offers to everyone!

### Questions

1. We all want a significant life. In your opinion, what does a "significant" life look like?
2. Read Ephesians 2:10. What does this mean for you and your individual significance? How about a whole group of Jesus followers?
3. What is something, maybe seemingly insignificant, that you can do to participate in the Kingdom of God this week? How can your group pray for you in this?