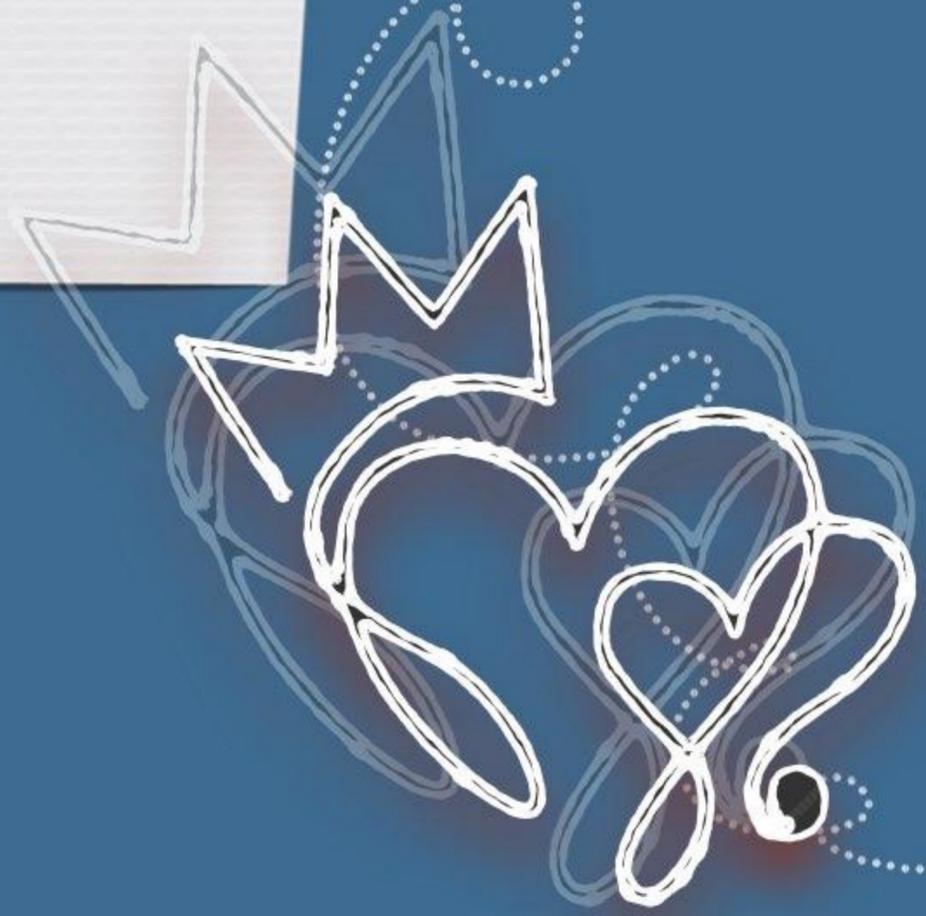


# The Kingdom of Heaven is like...

**Growing in God's Heart**

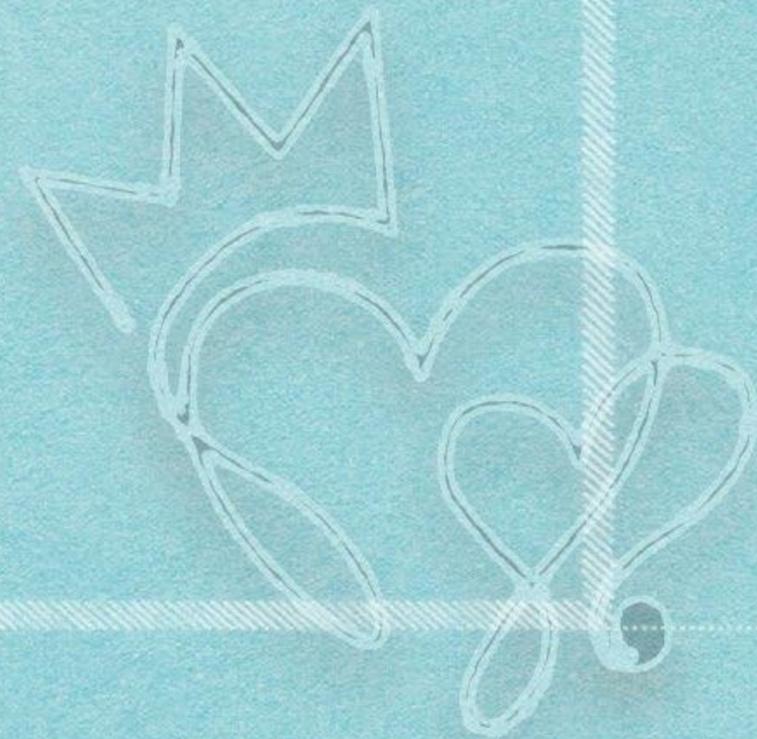


# Kingdom Priorities

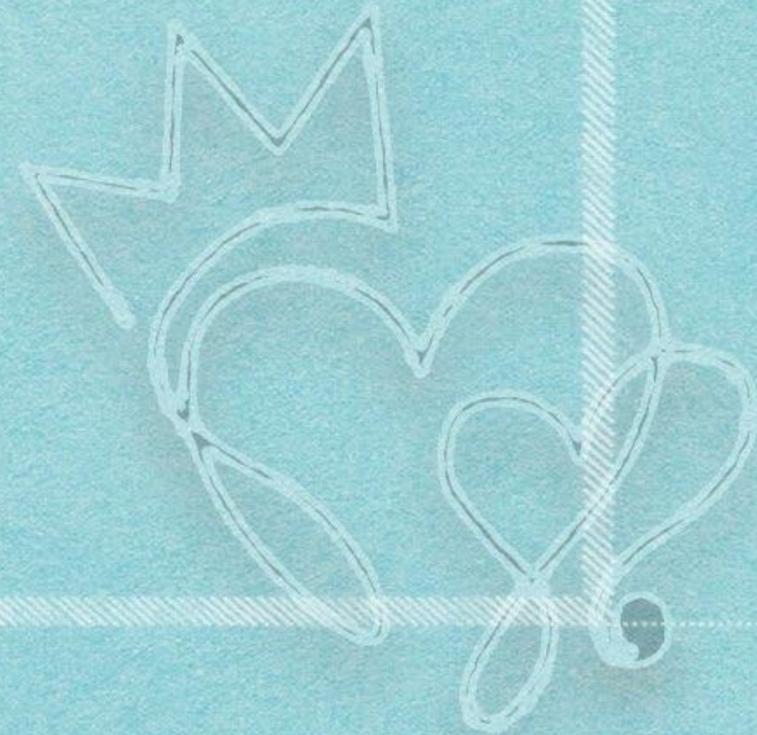
- ▶ This year (and always) we want to line our priorities up with The Lord's
- ▶ You must truly get to know a person to find out what is truly important to them
- ▶ As we draw near and learn the heart of the King, He becomes the King of our hearts



'Talk about my heart'



'The Kingdom of Heaven is like...'

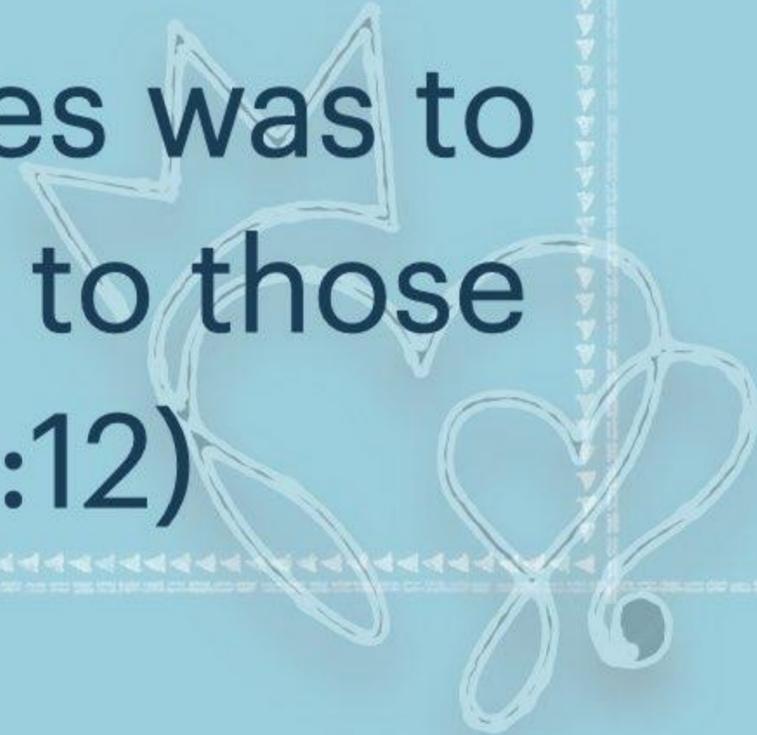


**The heart of the King is  
expressed in His Kingship  
which is manifest and  
seen in His KINGDOM  
(the domain of The King)**

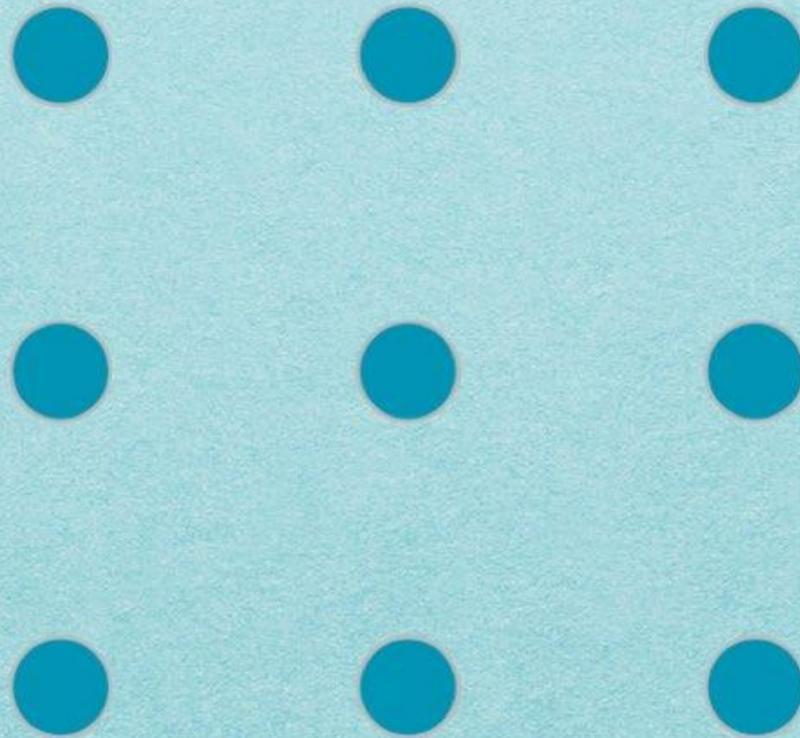


# Kingdom People

- ▶ Our top priority at Elim Aberystwyth in 2026 is growing in discipleship - as individuals and a community following Jesus/Yehoshua
- ▶ He said His purpose in using parables was to give the knowledge of the Kingdom to those who would be His disciples (Matt 13:12)



# Think Beyond the Box



SAY WHAT?

MENTAL FLOSS

# Think outside the Box

other words, you need to *think outside the box*. The puzzle gained popularity in the 1970s as a way for academics to illustrate how people think and work, and the phrase *think outside the box* gained popularity soon after.

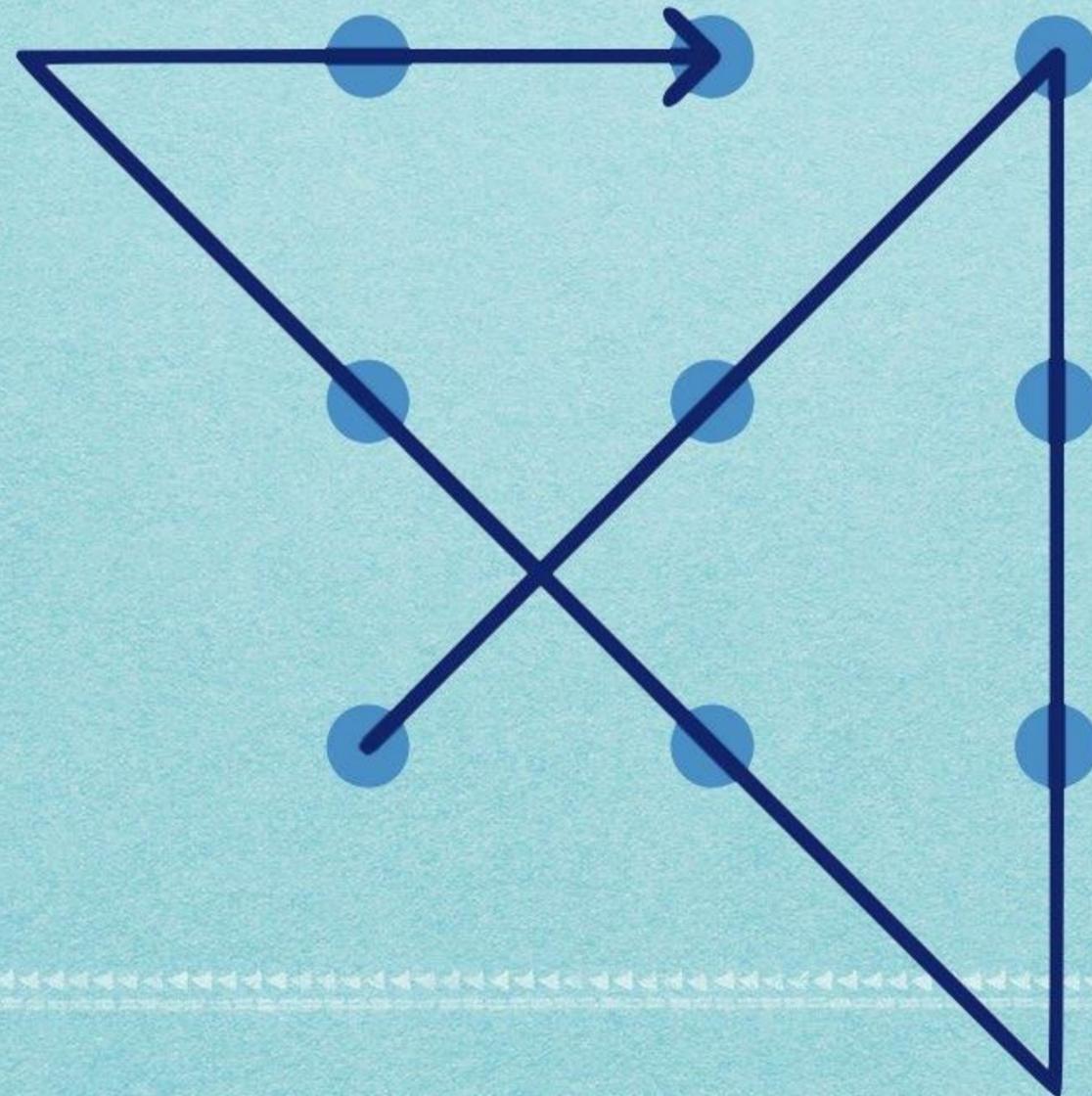
The nine dots puzzle entails drawing a box of nine evenly spaced dots and then connecting them all with just four lines, without lifting your pencil. People tend to assume the lines can't extend beyond the grid's boundaries—but, of course, that's the only way to solve the puzzle. In

20

TUESDAY  
JANUARY  
2026



# Think Beyond the Box

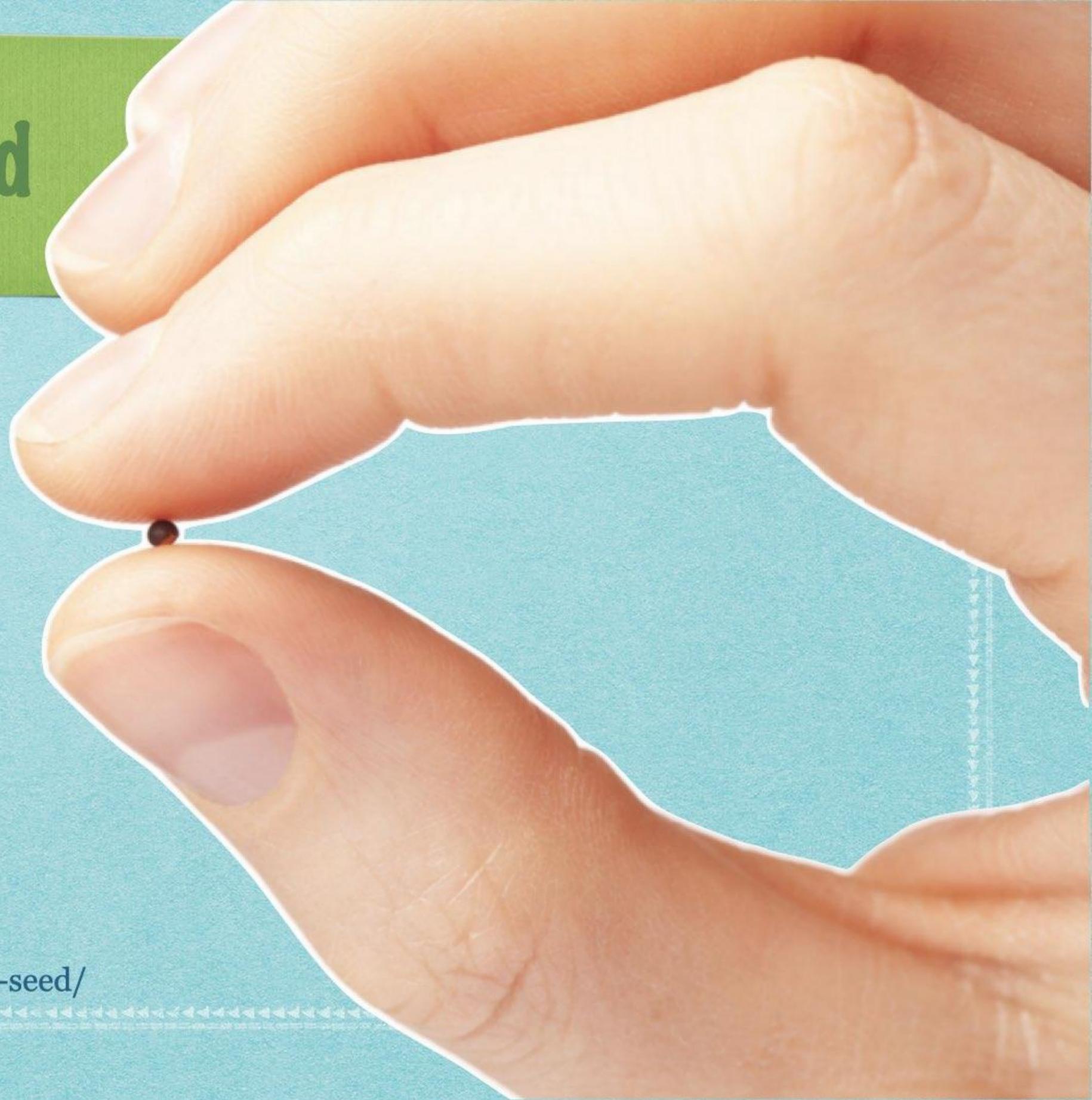


31 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

Matthew 13

# The Mustard Seed



<https://www.demellospirituality.com/the-mustard-seed/>

# The Mustard Seed

- ▶ Mustard seeds are not actually the smallest of all seeds that we know of... now (but then?)
- ▶ Jesus was not trying to make a scientific point about comparative seed sizes
- ▶ The point was that this is something that starts of tiny and seemingly insignificant



# The Mustard Seed

- ▶ 'The doors of history turn on small hinges' (John Glass)
- ▶ The turning point of history was a tiny baby born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger
- ▶ This tiny 'seed' was the Kingdom of Heaven on earth - The King Himself, Emmanuel, God with us



# The upside Down Kingdom

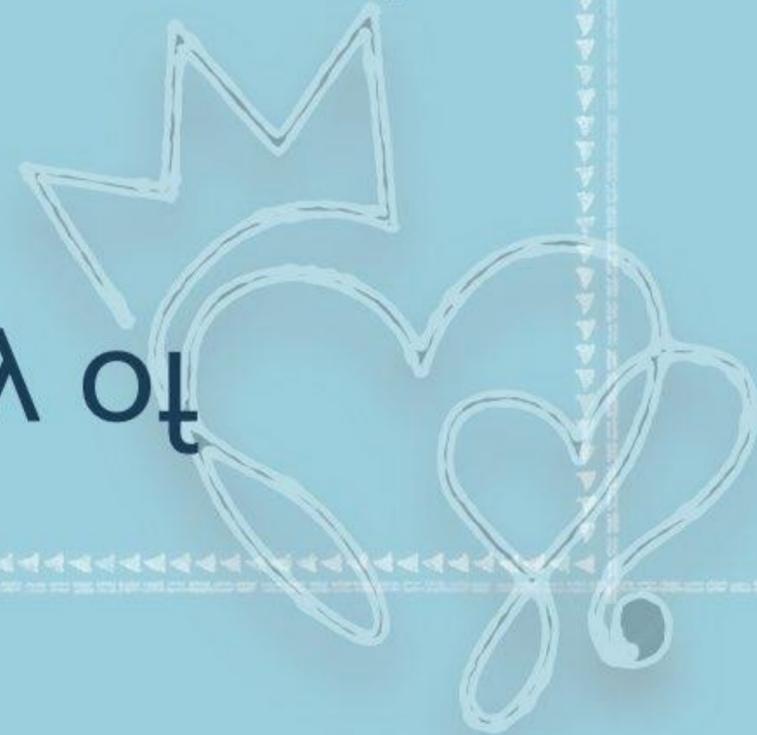
Jesus has flipped the poles,

▶ The New Testament is full of the truth that

▶ In the Kingdom of God this is not the case;

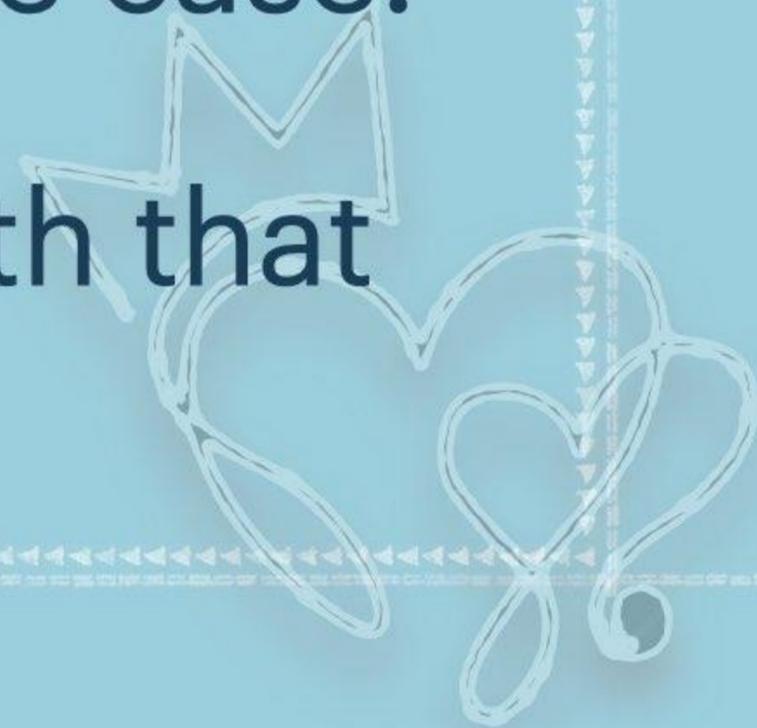
thinking, small = insignificant

▶ In our human and world-shaped way of



# The Upside Down Kingdom

- ▶ In our human (and perhaps world-shaped) way of thinking, small = insignificant
- ▶ In the Kingdom of God this is not the case!
- ▶ The New Testament is full of the truth that Jesus has 'flipped the poles'



# The Mustard Seed

- ▶ God so often uses that which seems small, unimportant and insignificant in His great plans and purposes
- ▶ Don't underestimate the power of a simple word from God / dream / promise / act of obedience
- ▶ One faithful person + the Lord = a majority!

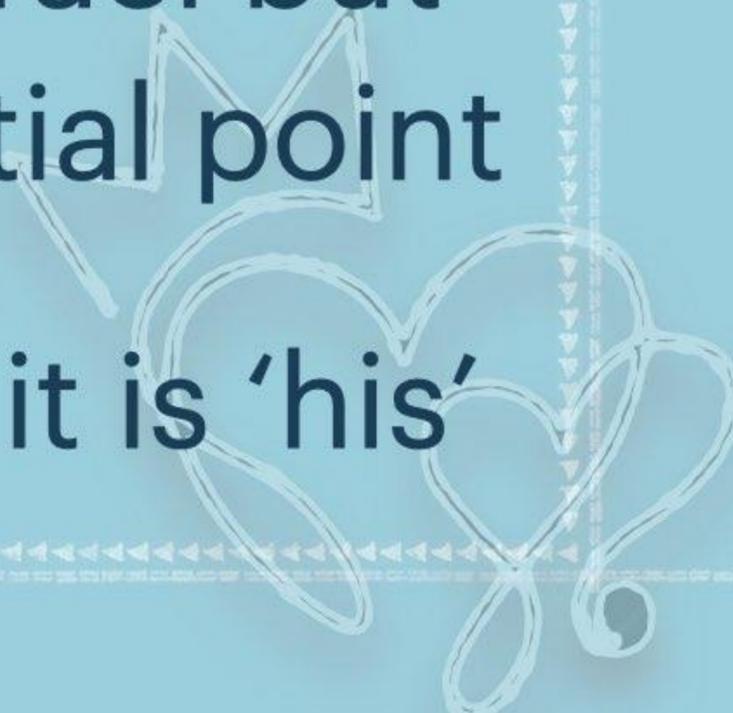


# The Field / Garden



# The Field

- ▶ In Luke 'his field' = 'his garden' whereas in Mark it simply says the man planted the seed
- ▶ These may refer to the world or to Israel but this seems not to be the most essential point
- ▶ It could be a point of interest in that it is 'his'



# The Man / Gardener



# The Man

- ▶ In previous parables in Matthew 13, Jesus identified the 'man/gardener' as The Son of Man - Himself
- ▶ We might speculate as to what the seed represents and interpret it various ways but the real point of the parable is how it grows to achieve the purposes of God
- ▶ When God sows a seed, The Kingdom will grow indeed!



# The Tree

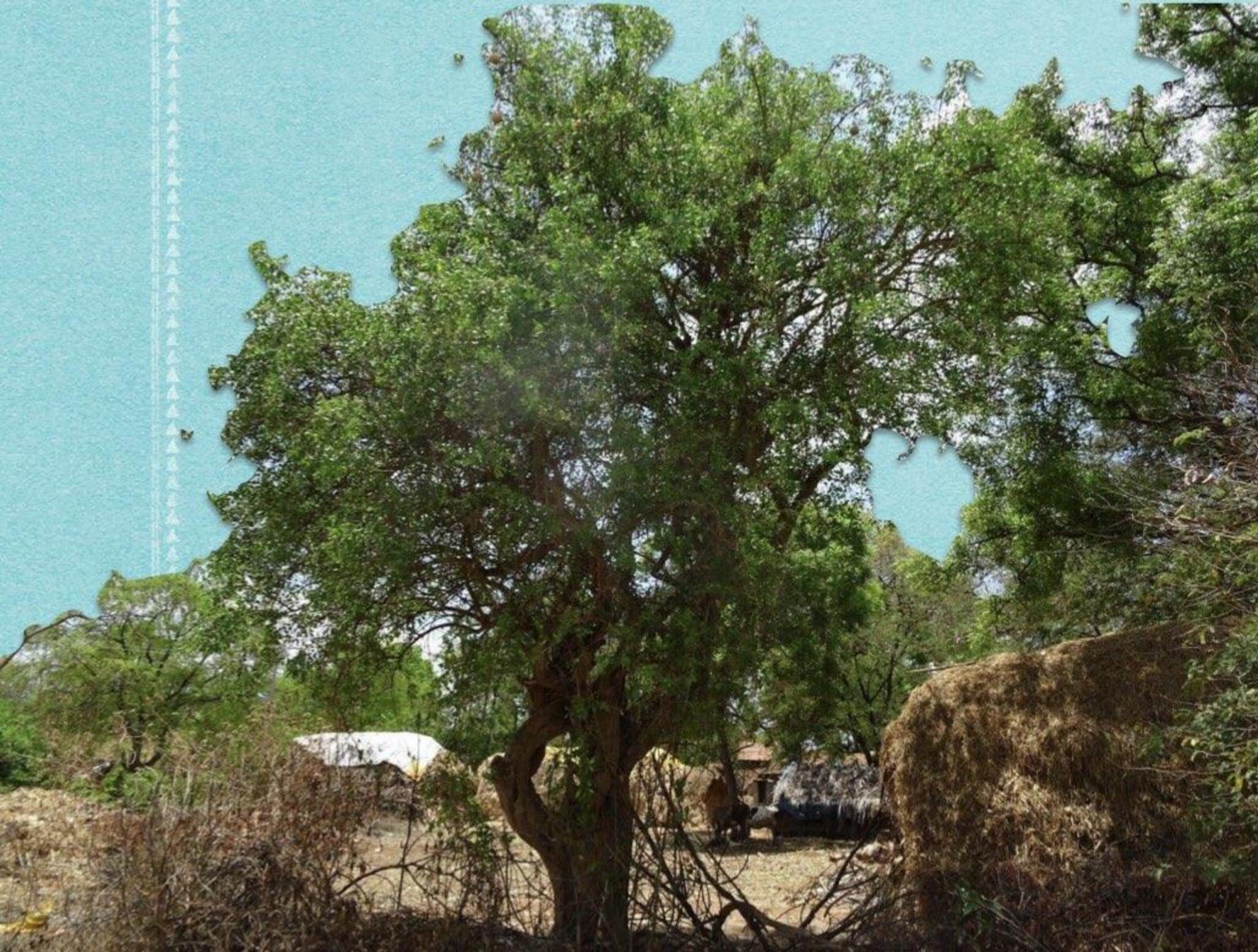


# The Tree

- ▶ There are a variety of types of mustard seed and mustard plant - they are not typically trees and are often a nuisance or weed!
- ▶ Some suggest that this about upsetting the religious leaders with something they don't want in the garden
- ▶ The most 'tree-like' is probably the 'Salvadora Persica' - also known as the toothbrush tree



# The Mustard 'Tree'



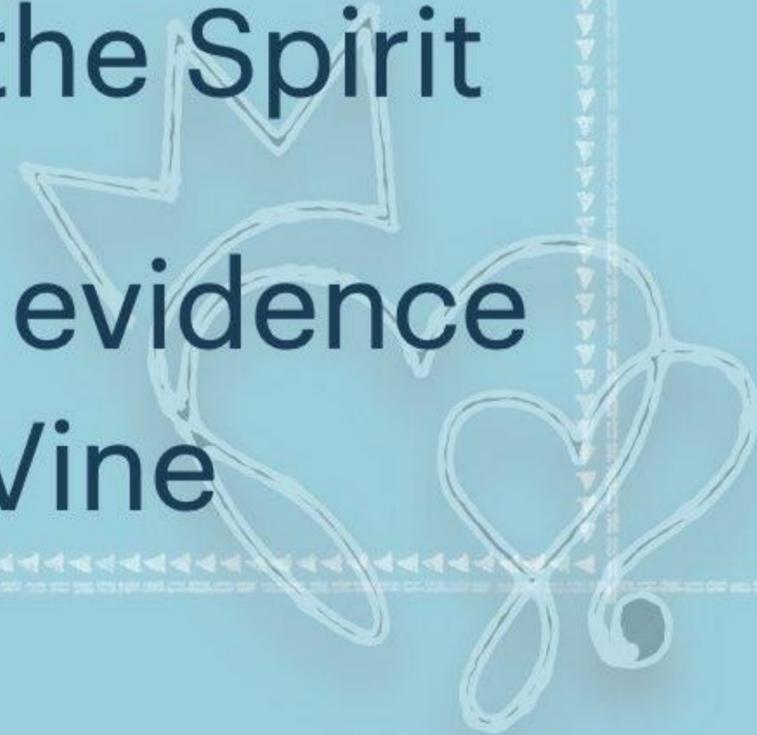
[seedsforgarden.com/products/25-salvadora-persica-seeds-mustard-tree-seeds-tooth-brush-tree-seeds](https://seedsforgarden.com/products/25-salvadora-persica-seeds-mustard-tree-seeds-tooth-brush-tree-seeds)

# The Tree

- ▶ The main point we are to take is that this 'tree' grew from the 'smallest' of seeds
- ▶ The key to our healthy development as Kingdom disciples is steady growth in Jesus
- ▶ He is The Vine, we are the branches (John 15)

# The Tree

- ▶ The Kingdom of God is about growth and development, not just miraculous moments
- ▶ There can be a pressure for us as Pentecostals to prioritise the gifts over the fruits of the Spirit
- ▶ We do need both but the fruits are the evidence of a life that is being cultivated in The Vine



Spiritual gifts are received and  
can be evidence of a touch from  
the Kingdom of Heaven...

...fruit grows and is the evidence  
a life rooted in the Kingdom  
(Kingship) of Heaven



# Growing as Kingdom Disciples

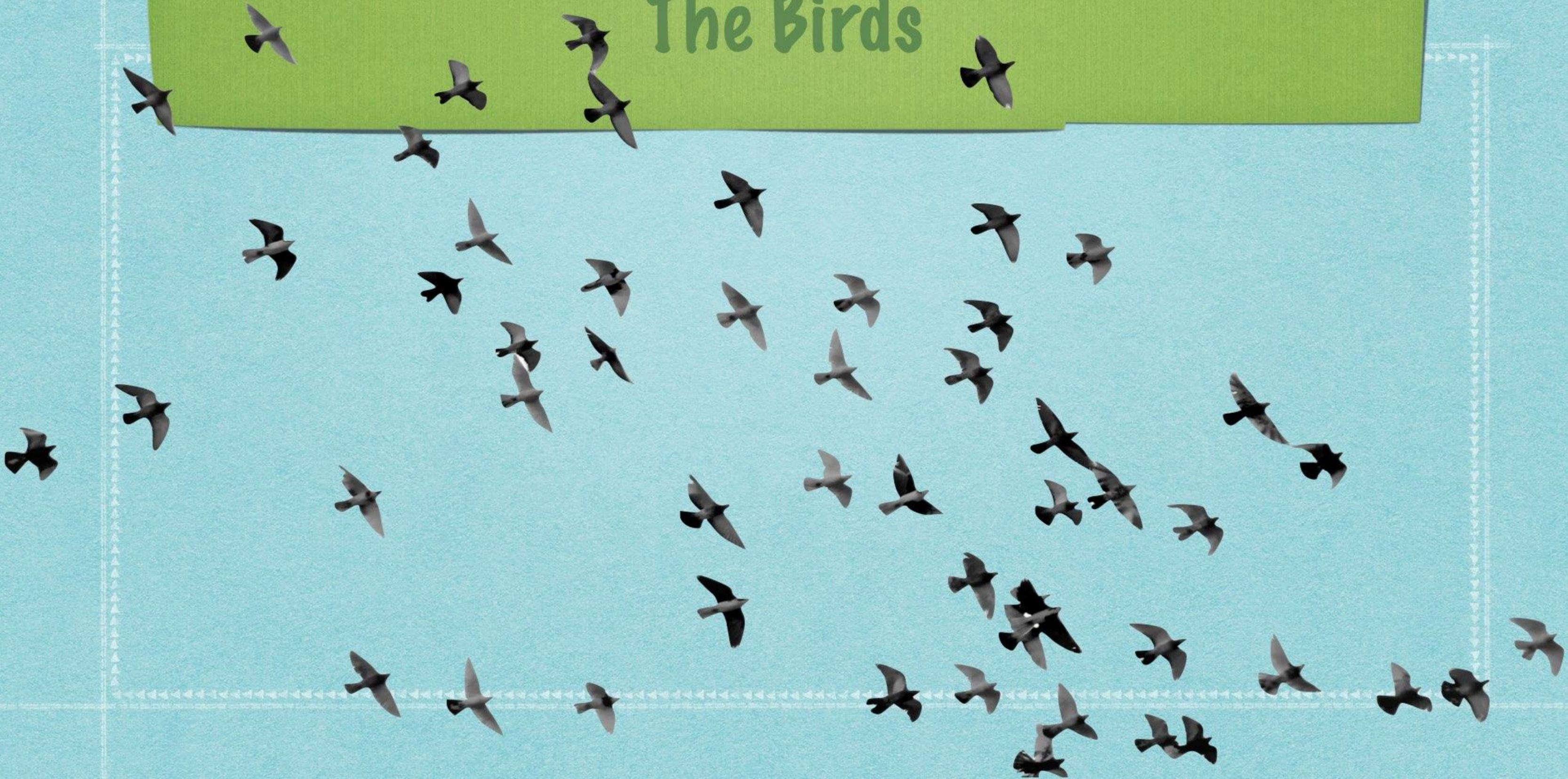
- ▶ May we be a church as obsessed with developing godly character as much as with the charismata
- ▶ We need both moments with God that transform us and a lifestyle of formation in God
- ▶ Let's dig in and cultivate spiritual disciplines, as well as seeking powerful spiritual experiences



When we pray the '**Your Kingdom come**' are we ready to  
action the '**Your will be done**'?



# The Birds

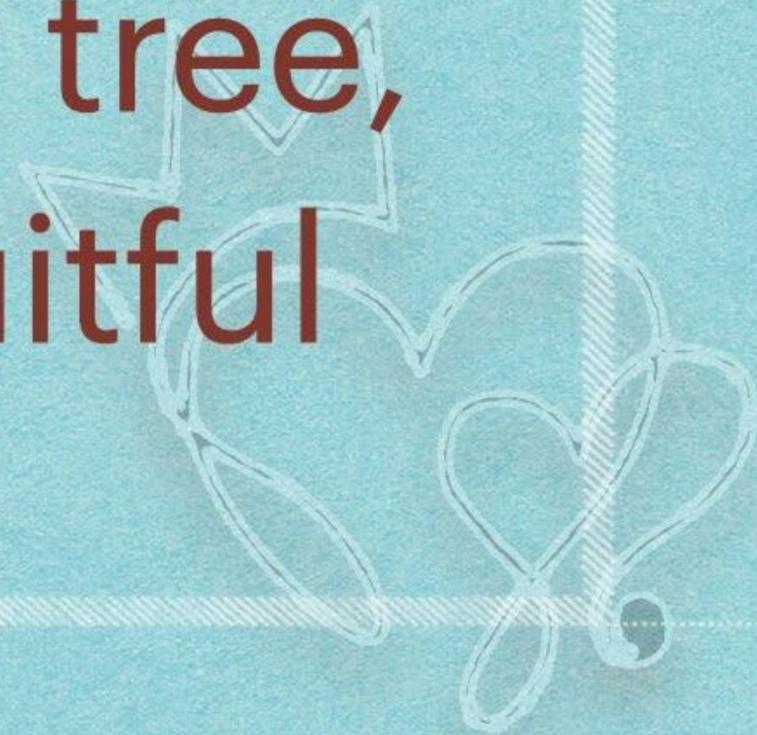


# The Birds

- ▶ The birds may represent the enemy (as in the parable of the sower) seeking to disrupt and destroy
- ▶ Another common interpretation could mean that the birds represent the (gentile) nations finding rest and shade in God's Kingdom
- ▶ Either way, the Kingdom has grown from a tiny seed to be a place big and strong enough for birds to perch in



The heart of God is that the least shall be the greatest, the last shall become the first, the tiny seed will become a mighty tree, and that His people be fruitful



# The Kingdom of Heaven is like...

- ▶ A tiny mustard seed sown by The Lord that grows to become a church of all nations and overcomes evil
- ▶ Faith as small as a mustard seed is able to move a mighty mountain (Matt 17:20)
- ▶ Let us grow in the soil of the domain of the King and live out the expression of His heart to the world



'Whoever has ears,  
let them hear'

