



**Celebration - Sunday 8:45 am**

**Elevation - Sunday 10:45 am**

January 18, 2009

Pastor David Mitchell

**The Parable of the Mustard Seed  
and the Leaven  
Matthew 13:31-35**

## “SMALL START, STRONG FINISH”

The Kingdom of Heaven's values conflict with the kingdom of this world.

### Kingdom of Heaven

Ezekiel 17:23, 24

Isaiah 53:2, 3 Jesus

Judges 6, 7 Gideon

I Samuel 16:10, 11 David

Exodus 4:11 Moses

I Corinthians 1:25-27

I Corinthians 2:1-5; 3:5-9

II Corinthians 3:4, 5; 12

### Kingdom of this world

Luke 22:24-27

Matthew 20:20, 21

Matthew 21:8-11

Which values would your friends say most characterize your life?

The Kingdom of Heaven's outcome will surprise the world with its growth and greatness.

Ephesians 1:19-23; Micah 4:1-5; Matthew 28:19-20

How is God working in your life to grow the Kingdom of Heaven?

The Kingdom of Heaven requires an outside organic agent to transform our life.

Acts 1:7, 8; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18; Philippians 4:13; II Corinthians 12:9, 10; Jeremiah 31:33, 34

How has the Spirit of God transformed your life in 2008?

Where does the Spirit of God need to work in your life in 2009?

The Kingdom of Heaven should impact our culture and community for good.

John 6:35-40; Matthew 5-7; Matthew 25:41-46

How is the Kingdom of Heaven working in your life for the good of your culture and community?

# DIGGING DEEPER

The mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven is that many of its values are in complete contrast to the values of most in the world today.

When Jesus came to offer His kingdom to this world, His opening message was from **Matthew 5-7**, the so-called Sermon on the Mount. Read through this message and learn of the values that He taught and distinguish how different they are from how the world operates today. These values will be in full force when Christ returns and establishes His kingdom on earth.

Write down all the values you see in these chapters that conflict with our world's values today:

Gideon is a good example of how God will take someone who feels small, inadequate, and fearful, and empower him for things far beyond what he thought possible.

**Judges 6:12** How did God greet Gideon?

**Judges 6:14** What was God's calling for Gideon? In Judges 6:11, what was Gideon doing when God came to him? See anything in his training that would make you think he is qualified? When has God called you to something that you feel unqualified for?

**Judges 6:15** What is Gideon's attitude toward this assignment? Have you ever felt that way about the commands from God? When? How did God work anyway?

**Judges 6:16** What is God's promise? How is that consistent with His promise to us today in **Matthew 28:19, 20**?

**Judges 6:19-27** What is important when being called to God's service? How did God reveal His power to Gideon? Why do you think He did that for Him? And what was the nature of Gideon's heart in vs. 27?

**Judges 6:36-40** is Gideon's fleece. A fleece is a sign of weak faith. But describe how patient God is with Gideon with his rather weak faith? How does that encourage you? Would you be as patient with Gideon as God was?

**Judges 7:1-9** Why does God only want 300 men?

**Judges 7:10** What does God recognize about Gideon, and us, when He calls us to His service?

**Judges 7:22** As the men battled, who was really in charge of each sword? How can that encourage your faith in whatever God has called you to do for His Kingdom of Heaven?

Read **I Corinthians 1:25-27**; **I Corinthians 2:1-5**; **3:5-9**; **II Corinthians 3:4, 5** and describe how God's calling for us is so different from what the world counts as important. Compare it with the "kingdom of this world" passages on the front of the outline.

Which kingdom values best represent your life?

