

**Abide/Abiding**

John 15:4

**Abide in Me**, and I **in** you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it **abides in** the vine, so neither *can* you unless you **abide in Me**.

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who **abides in Me** and I **in** him, he bears much fruit, for apart from **Me** you can do nothing.

**So What Does Abiding Look Like?**

## So What Does Abiding Look Like?

1. Connecting to God through listening to Him speak through His Word.
2. Communing with God by responding to His Word through prayer.
3. Rehearsing Gospel truth that reminds us of His great love for us.
4. Developing a moment-by-moment awareness of your need for Him in every situation.

**How do we become people who abide in the love of Jesus?**




**What is the most important characteristic of making disciples?**

**Breakdown**

**Breakout**

**Breakthrough**

# Breakdown



THE PARABLE OF  
THE MUSTARD SEED



Mustard seed



*Matt 13:31 He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; 32 and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."*





Apple tree in field of mustard

**a mustard plant is not considered a tree; it is typically a small, bushy herb, and while it can grow relatively large, it does not develop the woody trunk and branching structure characteristic of a tree, despite the reference to a "mustard tree" in the Bible which uses the concept metaphorically to describe something small growing into something large.**

**So how are we to understand the point?**

**What does this tell us about the Kingdom of Heaven?**

# Symbols used



# Symbols used

- **Seed.** Of faith. Gospel. Died and buried. "Tiniest".
- **Kingdom of God.** Gods people. Church. Things established by church.
- **.** New believers
- **Tree.** Large. Bigger than all the other plants.
- **Branches.** Stronger closer to trunk
- **Leaves.** Beauty. Vital to life.
- **Birds.** Sin. Steal. Not part of tree. Use shade, nesting places
- without beneficial contribution
- **Nest.** Use for own purposes. Maybe pick
- parasites off. (For own consumption - not for good of tree).
- **Shade.** Benefit, free no contribution. For those step who into it.

# Attributes

- Tiniest seed becomes larger than any other plant. Nothing like it. Magnitudes larger.
- God became human cell - embryo - fetus - infant - child -youth - man!
- Must be planted to grow. Not planted = essentially dead.
- Kingdom of God planted on earth grows into greatest of all. Seed of faith planted in a person —> faith, hope, and love greater than anything else.
- Produces fruit, twigs, leaves. Newer are small and weak. No growth - dies and turns brown and is shed or cut off.
- Produces seeds to multiply more like itself
- Tree branches spread in welcome. Leaves provide shade, branches strong stable support system.

*“I Am the vine, you are the branches”*

- Branches get water and nourishment from trunk, smaller limbs twigs and buds get it from branches. Good health produces fruit.
- Leaves, air, respiration, strength in numbers, release oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. Provide food, spice, medicine. Can be covering. Holds water droplets for others to drink. Interacts with the breeze.
- Birds use the tree, swoop in and steal, never become part of the tree.

**John 15 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing**