

INTO THE MARGINS

THE PARABLES OF LUKE

The Mustard Seed & Yeast

Luke 13:18-21 | Pastor Alf Halvorson

This is the sixth in our Fall Series on the Parables from Luke. Jesus begins the two parables that we will look at today with the phrase, “What is the Kingdom of God like?” Or, “To what should I compare the kingdom of God?” Don’t you want to know? We pray each week in our services, “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” As Jesus tells these parables, He is trying to give His disciples handles and images about what is breaking into their midst because of the incarnation and what will ultimately be the dominant kingdom forever and ever (Lk. 1:33). It is not so much about geography here, but rather ‘where is God in the midst of our lives and our world?’ How does God’s rule and love and justice and will and goodness make its way into life? How does this Kingdom emerge and what’s our role as disciples in it?

1. Where are you overwhelmed right now? Where are the problems in your life or of this world so large that they seem impossible to overcome? In what matter is your faith small and fragile?
2. Read Luke 13:18-21. Focus on verses 18 & 19 first. What do you think the big comparison is here for Jesus? Why or how is a mustard seed like the Kingdom of God? How might that comfort us? Who do you think the birds of the air are? And what is the significance of nests being built in the branches of the mature mustard tree?
3. Obviously a mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds. It starts small but Jesus says it ends up as a big tree. Where have you seen the same thing regarding some Kingdom Issue? What started incredibly small but has grown in power and influence for good and for God?
4. Focus on verses 20 & 21. This second parable compares the Kingdom to leaven (yeast) a woman mixes in with three measures of flour. The Greek Word is enekrypson. We get the word encrypt from this word. It is hidden in the flour but then is the fermenting agent that transforms the flour and water into bread. What is Jesus saying about himself and what He can do in a life and in our world?
5. What is a ‘tree’ good for here? And what is ‘bread’ good for here? How are individual Christians and the church supposed to be trees and bread? What might that look like for you this week?
6. If you and I are soil or flour, how can we allow the mustard seed of the kingdom or the yeast of the kingdom to be added to our lives? How can we nurture our soil or knead the dough? How can we submit or surrender to God’s planting, plowing, watering, and kneading activities?



in prayer partner

INFO AT MDPC

Pastoral Team

Dan Aikins

Assistant Pastor, Alpha Hub Director

Clay Brown

Equipping Pastor

Beth Case

Caring Ministries Pastor

Mauricio Chacón

Spanish Language Pastor

Almir Dias

Portuguese Language Pastor

Alf Halvorson

Senior Pastor

Brett Hurst

Relationships Pastor

Rachel Poysky

Children's Pastor

Dave Steane

Executive Pastor

Connect with Us

Contact Us

Website: mdpc.org

Front Office: 713-782-1710

Prayer Chain: 713-953-2558

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Facebook: facebook.mdpc.org

Instagram: instagram.mdpc.org

Vimeo: vimeo.mdpc.org

MDPC App

For a quick download link for Apple and Android, text "APP" to 832-742-1832.

Worship Services

8:30 AM • Blended • Chapel

9:45 AM • Contemporary • Sanctuary

11:15 AM • Traditional • Sanctuary

11:15 AM • Spanish Language • Chapel

6:00 PM • Portuguese Language • Chapel



ALL-CHURCH LUNCH

Today in Fellowship Hall
Lunch Served from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

All Meals Include: Roll, Dessert, & Beverage;
Choice of Salad, Fruit, or Jello

Today's Menu

\$10 Entrée: Meatloaf Stuffed Chicken with Bacon; Served with: Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli Cheese Rice, Sautéed Asparagus; \$7 Vegetable Plate; \$4 Child's Portion; \$10 Entrée Salad: Fancy Chicken

WEEKLY MINISTRY PARTNER PRAYER FOCUS

Redeemed Ministries • Redeemed Ministries identifies and responds to the needs of women who are commercially exploited for sex in Houston and surrounding areas. Its primary focus is to communicate and address the needs of victims by partnering with federal, state, local, and non-governmental agencies to provide services directly to victims of domestic sex trafficking. redeemedministries.com

The Rose • The Rose's mission is to save lives through quality breast health services, advocacy, and access to care for all, regardless of a patient's ability to pay. therose.org

MDPC Field Partners Tihomir and Christine Kukolja direct Renewing Our Minds (ROM), a reconciliation program in Croatia that brings together different faiths, ethnicities, and cultures in the Balkan region by sharing how following the teachings of Jesus transforms lives. Participants in the ROM program are chosen based on leadership potential, with the hope that they will return to their home countries and impact their spheres of influence. forumforleadership.blogspot.com

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

as of 10/06/19

2019 Annual Budget	\$ 12,240,000
Actual Income to Date	\$ 6,978,245
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 5,261,755

Sunday, October 13, 2019



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The Mustard Seed & The Yeast

Luke 13:18-21

Alf Halvorson preaching

The Mustard Seed & The Yeast (Luke 13:18-21 NRSV)

¹⁸ He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? ¹⁹ It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." ²⁰ And again He said, "To what should I compare the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

Congregational Meeting Next Sunday

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for October 20, immediately following the 9:45 AM worship service, for the purpose of electing Officers (Elders and Deacons), 2020 Trustees, and the 2020 Nominating Committee.

8:30 AM BLENDED & 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

PRAISE & WORSHIP • CONFESSION • MESSAGE • OFFERING

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders; Daniel Amaya, bass; George Heathco, guitar; Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL MUSIC

PRELUDE	<i>Fantasy in A Minor</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>The Old Hundredth</i>	Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
*HYMN OF PRAISE #464	<i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i>	Verses 1, 2 & 3; Hymn to Joy
ANTHEM	<i>God of Grace and God of Glory</i>	Paul Langston (1928-2013)
OFFERTORY	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	Fred Bock (1939-1998)
*HYMN OF RESPONSE #426	<i>Lord, Speak to Me</i>	Verses 1 & 5; Canonbury
POSTLUDE	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>	arr. Rhonda Furr (b. 1952)

Musicians in this service:
Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

TONIGHT! **Free Admission • All Are Invited!**



MDPC Concert Series
2019-2020

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13
6:00 PM • Sanctuary

Hymns sung by congregation and choir, with brass, percussion, strings, piano, and organ.

concerts.mdpc.org

All the Hymns You Love

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT MDPC

Keith McNay Exhibit

Visit MDPC's Community Gallery (located between Room 122 and the Nook) and view the artwork by Keith McNay, longtime MDPC member and Elder. Keith's paintings are described by other artists and patrons as "paintings with soul".

Displayed October 13-November 10.

Theology On Tap:

Spirits, Spirits, & Spirit

From the haunting heeby-jeebies to the Holy Spirit, how do we know what's out there? Is there a spiritual realm we can't see? What is it like? How do we know? Come hear guest speaker, Billy Abrahams, tackle this seemingly archaic or creepy topic, and then text in your own questions to a panel of experts.

Open to Young Adults (20s & 30s)

Sponsored by Perkins School of Theology

Tuesday, Oct 15 | 7:00-9:00 PM

Kindred | 2515 Waugh Dr.

\$5 gets you craft beer & food

facebook.com/theologyontaphouston

Harris County Flood Control District

This is a community engagement meeting to review a study of bridges and potential channel bypasses along Buffalo Bayou.

Thursday, Oct 17 | 6:00-8:00 PM | FH

Theology Matters: God & Creation

Taught by the MDPC Equipping Pastor Rev. Clay Brown, Ph.D., this series of stand-alone, 4-session, high-expectation college/seminary level courses reveal both "matters about theology" and "how theology matters" in our Christian growth.

Wednesdays, October 30, November 6, 13, 20
6:30-8:00 PM

Limited to the first 20 registrants

Contact Clay Brown (cbrown@mdpc.org) with questions.

Young Adult Fall Retreat

Come join our community of Young Adults as we retreat from the city and enjoy the tranquility of the country alongside some great friends. This is for you if you are looking for a chance to breathe and relax and experience the glory of the Lord with your friends. We will leave Friday after work and get back around lunch time Sunday. Food and room are provided!

November 2-4 | Montgomery, TX

\$145 for a bunk | \$85 for campers

Register: yaretreat.mdpc.org

Jenna and Barbara Bush at MDPC

MDPC is partnering with Blue Willow Bookshop to host Barbara Bush and Jenna Bush Hager as they promote their new book, SISTERS FIRST! Please note this is a ticketed event.

Saturday, November 16 | 7:00 PM

Tickets on sale now: bluwillow.mdpc.org

Help Fight Childhood Hunger

In Houston, 1 in 4 children often go without meals because their families cannot afford to buy food. A simple way you can help is to prepare meals at Houston Food Bank (HFB). Last year, MDPC volunteer teams prepped tens of 1,000s of meals for after-school programs throughout Harris County. We need your help to keep up the fight against childhood hunger! Will you please join us?

Monday, October 14 | 8:00 AM-Noon

Register and more details: hfb.mdpc.org

Hoop It Up with Youth Basketball!

Boys and girls in PreK to 9th grade are encouraged to participate. Fee of \$155 includes a jersey and trophy for each pre-school to fifth grade team member.

Practices begin the week of Dec 2. Games are on Saturdays, Jan 11-Feb 22 at area churches.

Register by Nov 17: sports.mdpc.org

College Ski Trip 2K20

Start 2020 with a memorable few days tearing up the Colorado slopes! Cost includes lodging, meals on non-travel days, lift tickets, and ski/board rentals.

Saturday-Thursdays, January 4-9

\$595 (\$200 due Dec 1, balance by Dec 20)

Learn more: collegeskitrip.mdpc.org



Youth Confirmation

Our yearly program for all students currently in 8th grade or above. Join us for a time of focusing on what it means to follow Jesus and be part of His Church.

Kick-off: Sunday Evening, January 5, 2020


Sundays, January 12-March 1

11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Confirmation Sunday: March 8, 2020

Register: confirmation.mdpc.org

\$125 fee covers Confirmation Retreat expenses.



THANKSGIVING MEAL IN A BAG

Visit thanksgiving.mdpc.org

Help East Spring Branch Food Pantry feed hundreds of deserving families for Thanksgiving! Pick up a cloth bag beginning October 20 in the Front Office or Outreach Ministries, shop for the items requested, and return the filled bag to MDPC on or before **Sunday, November 17.**



Use the new MDPC app to access the grocery list from your phone!

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES AT MDPC

Download the New MDPC App

We've created a powerful new mobile app, with all the features you enjoyed in the former app, PLUS expanded features in the area of event info and easy registration, group communication, personalized notifications, check-in, and so much more! For download links and additional details, visit app.mdpc.org.

Outreach Ministries Needs You...

MDPC Local Outreach is looking for 25 committee volunteers, beginning February 2020. The members go out in teams of two annually to visit, review, and pray with our local outreach partners. The reviews inform consideration for MDPC financial support. It is a unique blessing to see God at work through these hardworking, compassionate ministries.

Is God calling you to local outreach?

Contact Jan Roe at jroe@mdpc.org

Second Family

Second Family is a ministry of care circles made up of volunteers that offer friendship, assistance, and encouragement to MDPC members who are dealing with illness or disability and have limited family support. Whether you need support, or you have (any) availability to volunteer, please let us know!

Contact Beverly Fluke: bfluke@mdpc.org, 713-490-9542

Got a Heart for Kids?

What about a heart for fun? The Galaxy is looking for a volunteer to assist with Wednesday night Elementary Bible Study from 5:30-7:30 PM.

Contact Elementary Director, Lyndsey Dottavio (ldottavio@mdpc.org) for more information.



TRUNK or TREAT

Sponsored by MDPC DADS

Sign up to participate &/or volunteer!

Saturday, October 26 | 3:30-4:45 PM
trunkortreat.mdpc.org



Yes, I would like to register to be a 2020 Partner In Prayer!

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Fill out this form and turn it in at the Connection Center or the Front Office. You also can register online at pip.mdpc.org, or submit your information in person or via email to Caring Ministries. To do so or for more information, contact Annette Erickson at aerickson@mdpc.org or 713-490-9544.

There is no need to sign up again if you are already registered. If you wish to discontinue serving as a Partner in Prayer, please inform Caring Ministries so we may remove your name from the roster.