

~MUSTARD (84)

[Greek, *si'na-pl*]

- A rapid-growing herb, to the seed or grain of which Jesus referred in an illustration about the Kingdom of the heavens.
- Another illustration he set before them, saying; The kingdom of the heavens is like a **mustard** grain, which a man took and planted in his field. (**Matthew 13:31**)
- Which is, in fact, the tiniest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the largest of the vegetables and becomes a tree, so that the birds of heaven come and find lodging among its branches. (**Matthew 13:32**)
- And he went on to say; With what are we to liken the kingdom of God, or in what illustration shall we set it out? (**Mark 4:30**)
- Like a **mustard** grain, which at the time it was sown in the ground was the tiniest of all the seeds that are on the earth. (**Mark 4:31**)
- But when it has been sown, it comes up and becomes greater than all other vegetables and produces great branches, so that the birds of the heaven are able to find lodging under its shadow. (**Mark 4:32**)
- Therefore he went on to say; What is the kingdom of God like, and with what shall I compare it? (**Luke 13:18**)
- It is like a **mustard** grain that a man took and put in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of heaven took up lodging in its branches. (**Luke 13:19**)
- And in pointing out that even a little faith can accomplish much.
- He said to them; Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a **mustard** grain, you will say to this mountain, Transfer from here to there, and it will transfer, and nothing will be impossible for you. (**Matthew 17:20**)
- Then the Lord said; If you had faith the size of a **mustard** grain,

you would say to this black mulberry tree, Be uprooted and planted in the sea! And it would obey you. (Luke 17:6)

- Several kinds of **mustard** plants are found growing wild in Palestine, **black mustard**, *Brassica nigra*, being the variety commonly cultivated. In rich soil the seed, after a few months, may become treelike, a plant measuring as much as 4.5 meters (15 feet) in height, with a central stalk having the thickness of a man's arm.
- The flowers of mustard plants are yellow and the leaves rather irregularly edged and dark green in color. The pods that develop contain a row of seeds, those of the black mustard being dark brown.
- In the fall the stems and branches of the plants harden and become rigid, strong enough to support birds such as linnets and finches that feed on the seeds.

See Also ILLUSTRATIONS

- While some may argue that a **mustard** grain is not the tiniest of all seeds, orchid seeds being smaller, and that it does not actually become a tree, it must be borne in mind that Jesus was speaking in terms familiar to his audience.
- As far as Jesus listeners were concerned, the **mustard** grain was indeed among the tiniest seeds planted, and it is noteworthy that the Arabs designate as trees plants smaller than the **mustard**.
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