

Shalom is a Hebrew word. It means something like “peace” but it means much more than that. Jesus told many parables to help us understand Shalom. Maybe he was laughing a little when he told this one.

“God’s Shalom is like a mustard seed,” Jesus said as he held the tiny seed in his hand.
“See how tiny it is?”

“You think a mustard seed, can only grow into a small plant? Well, pretend that it can grow big as a tree. Pretend that birds will come and make nest in its branches.”

“Everyone laughed. “A mustard plant as big as a tree?”

“Yes,” Jesus laughed too. “God’s Shalom is like that.”

(Show the mustard seed)



Then Jesus told an even funnier story.

“You know the yeast people use to make bread? You can’t see how the yeast works. It just bubbles around inside the bread.

“Well suppose a woman took a tiny bit of yeast. Suppose she mixed it with a lot of flour and water. The yeast would work inside the dough. After a while she would have enough bread to feed a hundred people!”

“You mean one tiny bit of yeast could make all that flour into bread?” someone asked.

“That’s right,” Jesus smiled. “God’s Shalom is like that. You can’t see it working. But it’s there, all the time, working in you and working in me.”

(Show the bread/yeast)



“Here is another way to think about God’s Shalom,” said Jesus.

“God’s Shalom is like a treasure hidden in a field. If you know about that treasure you would go and sell all the things you had. Then you would take the money and buy the whole field. You would want the treasure to be yours.”

“Should we want God’s Shalom that much?” the people asked.

“Yes,” said Jesus. “That much!”

(Show the pearls in box.)



The World is the field. God is the buyer of the field. You are the treasure. AMEN