



Sermon Discussion Guide

7/05/2026

Sermon: Kingdom Stories "*Changed From the Inside Out*"

Text: *Matthew 13:33*

Introduction:

The Kingdom of God may begin hidden and small, but when Jesus gets inside a life, He changes everything from the inside out.

Think about something that changed your life gradually rather than all at once. Looking back, when did you first realize something significant had been changing?

From the Text

Read Matthew 13:33 together. Then read the parallel account in Luke 13:20-21.

What details are the same? Is there anything that stands out to you differently this time?

Discussion:

Observe the Story

1. What surprises you most about Jesus comparing the Kingdom of God to yeast?

2. The yeast is hidden inside the dough, yet eventually it affects the entire batch.

What might that teach us about the way God usually works in people's lives?

3. Jesus says the dough was "all leavened." What does that suggest about God's intention for our lives?

Digging Deeper

4. Read John 15:1-8. Jesus speaks about abiding in Him rather than striving harder.

How does abiding differ from simply trying to become a better person?

What role does Jesus play in our transformation?

5. Read Galatians 5:22-25. Notice that Paul calls these qualities the fruit of the Spirit. Why do you think Scripture emphasizes fruit instead of effort? How does fruit relate to the image of yeast working through dough?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18. Paul says we are "being transformed into His image."

What does this passage teach us about who accomplishes our transformation? How does this encourage someone who feels spiritually "unfinished"?

Holiness and Transformation

6. Many people think holiness is mostly about avoiding sin.

After reading Matthew 13:33 and Galatians 5, how would you define biblical holiness?

How is becoming like Jesus different from merely behaving better?

Kingdom Influence

7. Jesus teaches that what God does inside us eventually influences everything around us.

Think about someone whose relationship with Jesus has positively influenced your life. What was it about that person's life that made such an impact?

8. The Kingdom spreads through transformed people, not merely through programs or institutions.

What are some practical ways a transformed disciple influences: A marriage? A family? A workplace? A neighborhood? A church?

Where is God inviting you to be that kind of influence?

Reflection

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting on these questions:

1. Where have I been focusing on outward behavior instead of inward transformation?
2. Is there an area of my life where I have resisted the Holy Spirit's work?
3. Where can I already see evidence that God is changing me?
4. Who is being influenced because Jesus is changing me?

Kingdom Response

Complete this sentence: "This week, I will cooperate with the Holy Spirit by..."

Close in prayer:

Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue His work of sanctifying each person, shaping them into the likeness of Christ, and using their transformed lives to bring Kingdom influence wherever God has placed them.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 Cor. 3:17-18