

***“The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly”***  
**Matthew 13:31-33**

**INTRODUCTION:** The ***“Kingdom of Heaven”*** is the ***“kingdom”*** over which Heaven rules – **13:24, 13:31, 13:33**

**I. PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED**

- 1.- **The GOOD** – ***“mustard seed”*** – **13:31** ... see **13:37**
  - The ***“mustard seed”*** symbolized something small and seemingly insignificant – Mt. 17:19-20
  - Christianity started out SIMPLE and SMALL, but GREW.
- 2.- **The UGLY** – ***“tree”*** – **13:32**
  - We are called to be the ***“salt”***, not the ***“mustard tree”*** of the earth ... the church has become ***“big business”***.
- 3.- **The BAD** – ***“birds”*** – **13:32** ... see **13:4, 13:19**
  - The ***“birds”*** represent the ***“wicked one”*** ... Revelation 18:1-2
  - The ***“birds”*** are counterfeit Christians, like the ***“tares”***.

**II. PARABLE OF THE LEAVEN**

- 1.- **The BAD** – ***“leaven”*** – **13:33**
  - ***“Leaven”*** represents SIN – Matthew 16:6, 1 Corinthians 5:8
- 2.- **The GOOD** – ***“meal”*** ... see **13:19a, 13:38**
  - ***“3 measures of meal”*** – The Gospel is preached today and available like never before in history.
- 3.- **The UGLY** – ***“woman”*** – **13:33**
  - She ***“hides”*** the ***“leaven”*** in the ***“meal”*** – 1 Corinthians 5:6
  - The ***“meal”*** has been corrupted by the ***“leaven”***.
  - The cults have just enough ***“truth”*** to make the ***“leaven”*** believable, palatable ... good works, baptism, tithing.
  - False Teachers ***“hide”*** the ***“leaven”*** in the ***“meal”*** – 2 Tim. 4:3-4

**CONCLUSION:**

- The ***“birds”*** are ***“hiding”*** in the ***“tree”*** ... the ***“leaven”*** is ***“hidden”*** in the ***“meal”***.
- Colossians 3:3 – ***“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”***
- If saved, your sins are HIDDEN from the eyes of Holy God ... in the righteousness of Christ ... Romans 6:23