

EVERYTHING BUT THE HOT DOG!

Life Stories – Part 5

May 24, 2009

God seldom works the way we _____ Him to?

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN...

1. Starts from very _____ beginnings.

Matthew 13:31-32 (NIV) “He told them another parable: ‘**The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed**, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² **Though it is the smallest of all your seeds**, yet when it grows, **it is the largest of garden plants** and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.’ ”

Acts 1:15 (CEV) “One day there were **about one hundred twenty of the Lord's followers meeting together**, and Peter stood up to speak to them.”

Matthew 16:18-19a (NIV) “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven...**”

Matthew 24:14 (NIV) “And this gospel of the kingdom will be **preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations**, and then the end will come.”

Revelation 7:9a (NIV) “...I looked and there **before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language**, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb... “

2. Starts small but it grows very _____!

Matthew 13:33 (NIV) “He told them still another parable: ‘**The kingdom of heaven is like yeast** that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until **it worked all through the dough.**’ ”

Luke 17:20-21 (NIV) “Once, having been asked by the Pharisees **when the kingdom of God would come**, Jesus replied, ‘The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, ²¹ nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because **the kingdom of God is within you.**”

KINGDOM PRINCIPLE: God will grow

His Kingdom _____!

What Are You Going To Do About What You Know?

Characteristics of Kingdom Faith...

- Your faith is _____.

Matthew 5:14-15 (CEV) “You are **like light for the whole world**. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, ¹⁵ and no one would light a lamp and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is placed on a lampstand, where it can give light to everyone in the house.”

- Your faith is _____.

Acts 2:36 (CEV) “**Everyone in Israel should then know for certain that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ**, even though you put Him to death on a cross.”

- Your faith _____.

Matthew 17:20 (NIV) “He replied, ‘Because **you have so little faith**. I tell you the truth, **if you have faith as small as a mustard seed**, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. **Nothing will be impossible for you.**’ ”

- Your faith is _____.

Acts 4:13 (NIV) “When they saw the **courage of Peter and John** and realized that they were **unschooled, ordinary men**, they were **astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus.**”

Romans 10:14 & 17 (CEV) “How can people have faith in the Lord and ask him to save them, **if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them?** ¹⁷ **No one can have faith without hearing the message about Christ.**”