**Monday 11th May**

Luke 13:18-21

Then Jesus asked, “What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.” Again he asked, “What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds a of flour until it worked all through the dough .”

I really felt drawn to these little parables that Jesus told about the Kingdom this morning. Like their subjects these are ‘blink and you miss it’ parables! A tiny seed, a microscopic yeast - and yet they punch above their weight. And Jesus uses them to describe the most vast and everlasting reality there is - the Kingdom of our God! Have you noticed how sometimes God works in ‘blink and you miss it’ ways. I have learnt over the years that so often that little thought to ring someone or that little picture that forms in my mind and are so easily dismissed are the promptings of the Holy Spirit to bring hope or encouragement to others. How often do we think ‘that’s just me’ when actually it is the whisper of God? Yesterday we heard that the rules around lockdown are being slightly relaxed, and yet for most of us, we are going to continue in a similar way to the last six weeks. What is God doing in you or saying to you in this time which he is asking you to nurture and grow over the weeks ahead? Over the weekend I replanted some seeds I had sown and made some bread rolls. You don’t just plant a seed or throw yeast in some flour and forget about it! They need some nurture in order to reach their potential. So with these precious kingdom seeds. As they are entrusted to us, let us steward them well, and watch as they grow beyond our expectations.

*Father God, we praise you for your incredible love and power! We exalt your name because out of something small and unpromising you grow your Kingdom. Thank you that you have brought me from death to life, and called me your treasure. As I offer you myself today, thank you that you can take that little thing and do something of great significance and worth and lasting value with it. Help me to steward well the Kingdom seed and yeast that you have entrusted to me. In Jesus name. Amen*

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