

Comparing the Parables in the Synoptic Gospels
A study in “similarity is not identity”

1. **Matthew** presents Jesus as the perfect king; **Mark** presents Jesus as the perfect servant; **Luke** presents Jesus as the perfect man. Matthew is the only book to use the term “The Kingdom from the Heavens.” The Kingdom from the Heavens is different from the Kingdom of God (Mt. 19:).
2. **Parables** were used by Jesus to confound those not close to Him (Mt. 13:13; Mk. 4:12; Lu. 8:10).
3. During Jesus’ earthly ministry, the Kingdom of the Heavens was in offered form, the Kingdom of God was in mystery form.

Matthew 13:31-32	Mark 4:30-32	Luke 13:18-19
The Kingdom from the Heavens	The Kingdom belonging to God	The Kingdom belonging to God
Like a mustard seed	Likened to a mustard seed	Likened to a mustard seed
A man sows in his field (world v. 38)	The seed is sown upon the earth	Seed is thrown into His garden (Eden)
The smallest grows to be the largest of herbs (unnatural growth, changes form)	It grows to the largest (unnatural, changes form)	The seed grows and becomes a tree (different than its design)
The herb becomes a tree	Remains an herb	The herb becomes a tree
Birds (the evil one v. 19) roost in the branches of the tree and seem to be a part of it	Birds dwell under the plant in the shadow of it (they get some of the benefits but not part of the it)	Birds dwell in the branches
The herb changes form to a tree, well beyond its intended purpose. Satan and his demons involved in this change.	Satan and his demons take advantage of some elements of the Kingdom of God; but are not part of it.	The Kingdom of God changed form in Eden. Satan ruined the first stage of this Kingdom and thus will disrupt the Kingdom in Mystery Form