

# Looks Are Deceiving

Matthew 13: 31 - 34

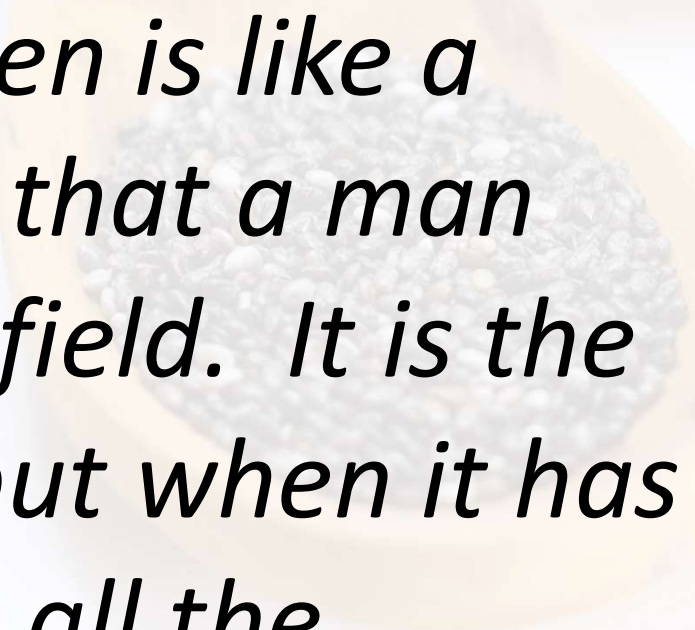


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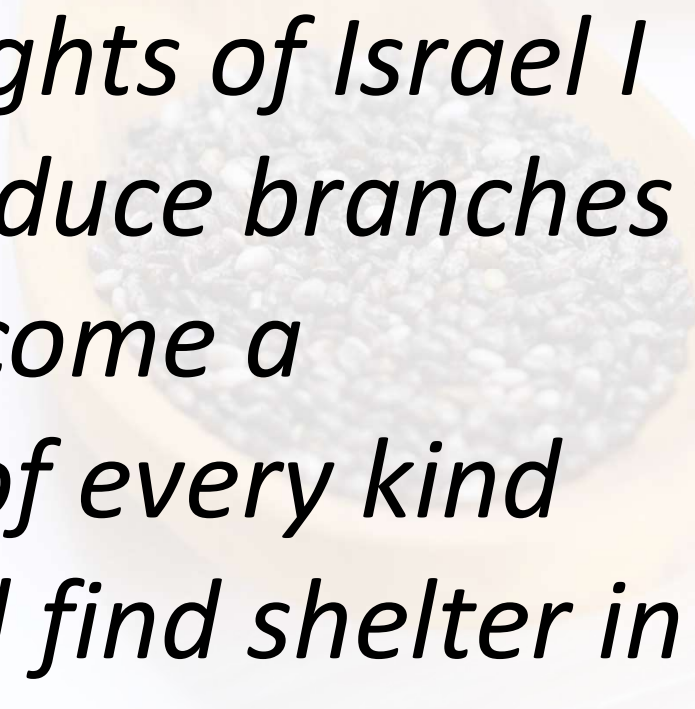
1. The Improbable Progress of the  
Kingdom

Matthew 13: 31 - 32



*“The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”*

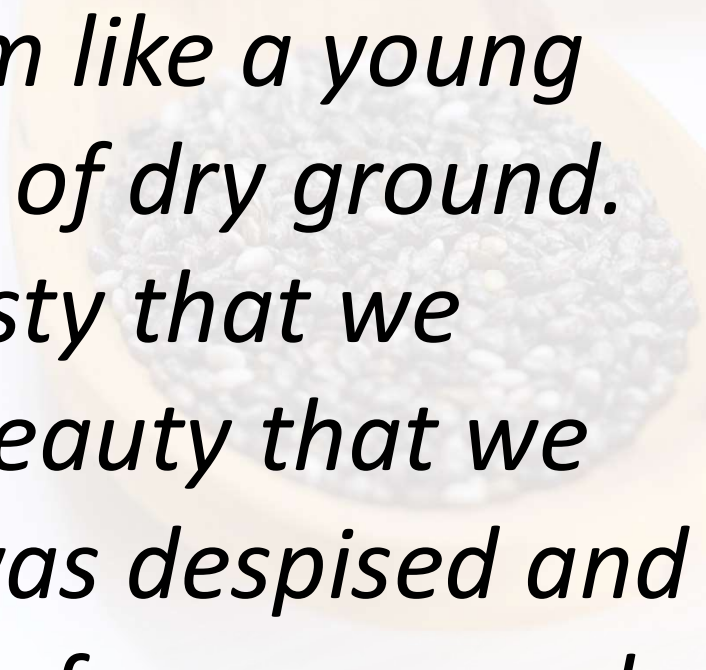
Matthew 13: 31 - 32

A bowl of chia seeds is visible in the background, slightly out of focus. The seeds are small, dark, and oval-shaped, filling the bowl. The bowl itself is light-colored and has a wide rim.

*“On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches.”*

Ezekiel 17: 23





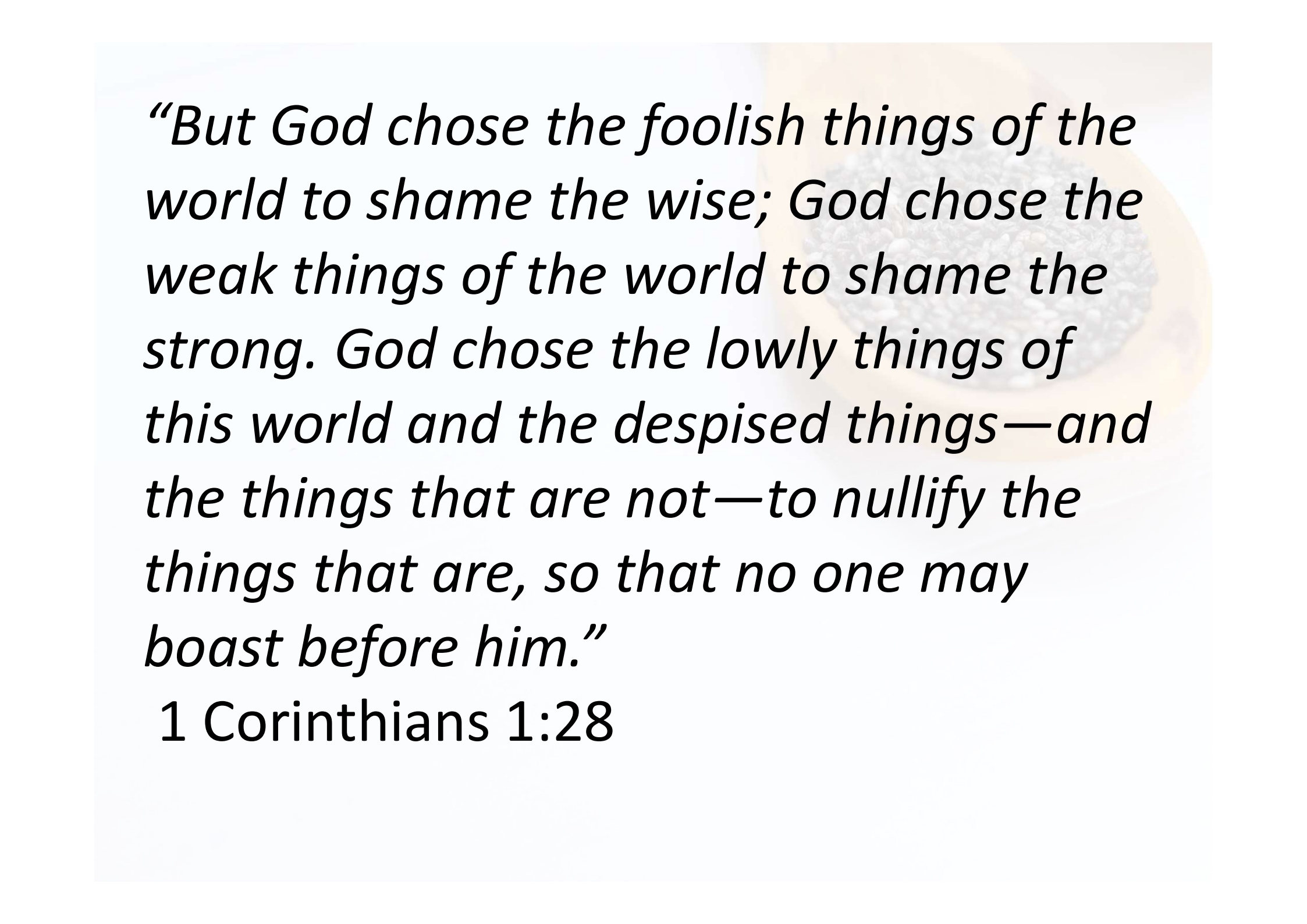
*“He grew up before them like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And as one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised and we esteemed him not.”*

Isaiah 53:2-3

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Christ's Kingdom and Plan:  
Easily Missed, Overlooked,  
and Disdained



*“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.”*

1 Corinthians 1:28

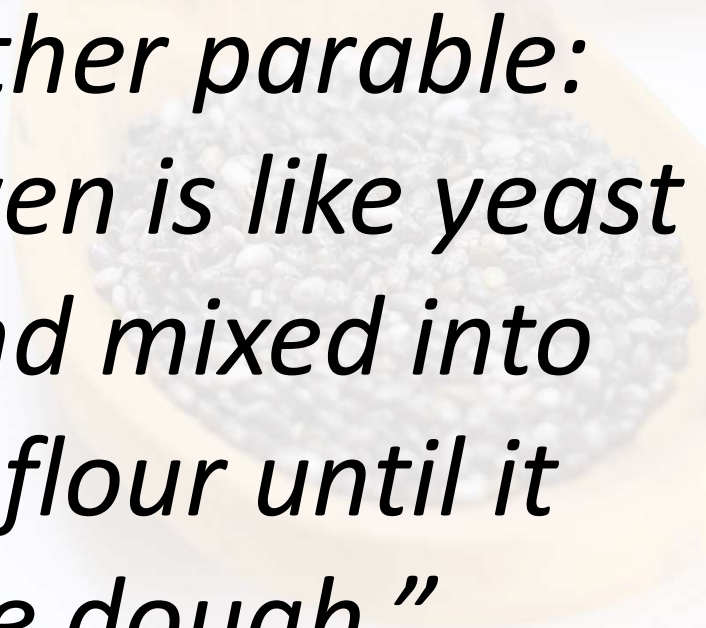
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2. The Invisible Power of the  
Kingdom

Matthew 13: 33



A close-up photograph of a wooden bowl containing a thick, yellowish dough. A dark, granular substance, likely yeast, is being poured or mixed into the dough. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

*He told them still another parable:  
“The kingdom of heaven is like yeast  
that a woman took and mixed into  
about sixty pounds of flour until it  
worked all through the dough.”*

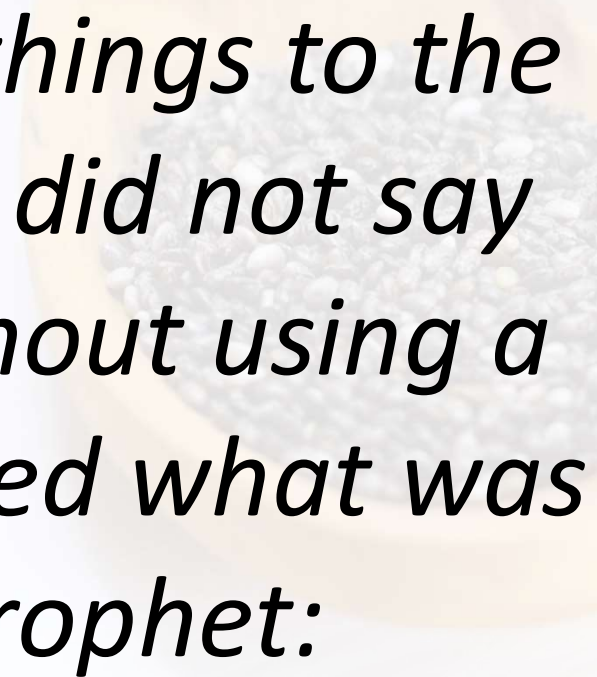
Matthew 13: 33

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3. The Unveiled Message of  
the Kingdom

Matthew 13: 34-35

A shallow wooden bowl filled with dark, small lentils, set against a light background.

*Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:*

*“I will open my mouth in parables,  
I will utter things hidden since the  
creation of the world.”*

Matthew 13: 34-35