

Sermon Notes

"Parables of the Kingdom"

Mark 4:21-34

July 20, 2025

5. How does it make you feel to know that the message of Christ contains a mysterious power in itself?

6. How is the kingdom of God like a mustard seed (4:30-32)? How could the beginning of the kingdom of God be compared to such a small, insignificant seed? What promise is given in this parable?

7. How might this parable have encouraged Christians being persecuted by the Roman state? In what ways does this parable encourage you to persist in your faith?

8. How did Jesus' approach to teaching the crowds differ from the way He taught his disciples (4:33-34)? How does this fit in with His earlier explanation (4:10-12)?

9. Is there any way in which you are hardening your heart to God's word? What would a soft and receptive heart look like for you?

Let's Pray:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 07-20-2025

Questions adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, p. 76-77; Lyman Coleman, et.al., eds., Serendipity New Testament for Groups, Serendipity House, Littleton, CO, 1986, p. 95; James Hoover, Mark: Follow Me, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1999, pp. 27; Ted Dorman, Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Life Change Series: Mark, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1995, pp. 55-58; Jason Meyer, Mark For You, The Good Book Company, India, 2022, p. 80.

Getting Started:

1. What experiences have you had with growing plants from seeds?

Digging Deeper:

Read Mark 4:21-34.

2. What is the meaning of the two opening analogies of the lamp and the measuring scoop (4:21-25)? How does the repetition of "hearing" (4:9-20, 23, 24a) influence our interpretation?
3. Note how Jesus concluded these analogies (4:24-25). Who will be given more, and why? Who will have things taken away from them, and why? How does this relate to the commands to "hear" (4:23-24a)? What responsibility do you have before God in light of the truth or knowledge God has already revealed to you?
4. What does the parable of the secretly growing seed (4:26-29) emphasize about the kingdom? Consider how did the seed in the parable sprout and grow, and what roles did the man play.