

Reflection Questions: How am I contributing to the growth of God's kingdom? Am I consistently sowing the gospel seed with my lips and life? Am I praying for God to bring the harvest?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



Parables of Growth

Sermon
Notes

November 13, 2022

1. Parable of the Growing Seed (26-29)
2. Parable of the Mustard Seed (29-32)
3. Summary of Parabolic Teaching (33-34)

Quotes to Ponder

God does not hurl the kingdom as Poseidon does his thunderbolt. God plants it as a seed, present even now in the ministry of Jesus, hidden and imperceptible, but portending both a harvest and judgment.

James R. Edwards

There is a tendency in the church to be results-centered. Maybe we need something to attract people a little more to the gospel. Maybe we're not instilling enough fear and guilt. Maybe if the gospel could be given by some famous person, people would listen. Maybe cooler music. All of that is forgetting your place. Here's your place: Plant.

Paul David Tripp

This parable teaches me that the things I say and do, though they seem infinitely insignificant to me, may have eternal significance as God uses me in the building of His kingdom.

R.C. Sproul

Out of the most insignificant beginnings, invisible to human eyes, God creates His mighty Kingdom, which embraces all the peoples of the world.

A. Schlatter

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?
2. Both of these parables are about *the kingdom of God* (Mark 4:26, 30). What is the kingdom of God?
3. What is revealed about God's kingdom in *Psalms 72:8-11* and *Isaiah 54:2-3*?
4. What point about *the kingdom of God* is made in the parable of the growing seed (Mark 4:26-29)?
5. What is the man of Mark 4:26 responsible for?
6. What doesn't this man know (Mark 4:27)?
7. Is there significance to the description in Mark 4:28 that says, *first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head*? Explain.
8. Who brings the harvest in this parable (Mark 4:26-29)?
9. What point about *the kingdom of God* is made in the parable of the mustard seed (Mark 4:30-32)?
10. Because we know that the mustard seed is not smaller than all the seeds (Mark 4:31), how can we trust anything that Jesus said?
11. Is there a significance *that the birds of the air can nest under its shade* (Mark 4:32)? Explain.
12. Why do you think Mark adds verses 33 and 34 after these parables?
13. Sometimes we think certain individuals are unlikely to respond to the gospel and then they surprise us and do so. What does this tell us?
14. What do these parables teach us about the way God works?
15. Read 1 Corinthians 2:13-16. How do Paul's comments underscore the points that Jesus makes in these parables (Mark 4:26-32)?
16. Read Isaiah 55:11. What does this mean in light of God's purposes? What does this mean for our sharing the gospel?
17. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. Does this describe us? Are we fulfilling this in our lives?
18. What do we learn from the following verses about our work in God's kingdom?
John 3:8 —

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 —

James 5:7-8 —

What did Jesus mean by saying this?