

WHAT (ON EARTH) IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD LIKE?

Mark 4:21-34

Opening Thought: When Does God's Light Shine The Brightest?

From Jesus' Kingdom Activity To Jesus' Kingdom Teaching

What Likenesses Can I Borrow To Describe God's Kingdom? (vv. 26-32)

1. The Kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed in the ground . . .

Main idea: The seed sown has a life of its own, which takes its due course

2. The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that becomes the largest tree.

Main idea: Starting from something so small and insignificant, God accomplishes His ultimate purpose of reuniting and restoring all creation.

Axis Mundi = The place where heaven meets the earth (Daniel 4, Ezekiel 17 & 31)

Does The Lamp Come Simply To Be Hidden Away? (vv. 21-25, 33-34)

"Do you bring in a lamp?" is literally translated, "Does the Lamp come?"

By your standard of measure, it will be measured to you and more will be given...

The Seed Becomes The Tree And The Lamp Is Placed Upon The Stand

Mark 4:21-34 (NIV)

“He said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand? ²² For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”

²⁴ “Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. ²⁵ Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.”

Some Questions To Ponder:

1. Prayerfully reread Mark chapters 1-3. As our world currently struggles to contain the invisible coronavirus, we learn in Mark of another, more significant time in history when God sent a seemingly insignificant “seed” to invade satan’s domain. As you read through Mark’s opening chapters, in what ways do we see satan’s kingdom being invaded?

2. Read 4:21-34. Jesus begins to explain what the Kingdom of God is like. Why doesn’t Jesus simply give us a simple definition of the Kingdom of God? In the parables found here, how does knowing that Jesus (The Word of God) is the Lamp, and the man sowing seed, and the mustard seed to help explain what the Kingdom of God is like?

3. If Jesus Himself is central figure to most of these parables, then what should our daily posture be towards Him?

4. In verses 22-25 and 33-34, we read of the importance of listening well because “by the standard of measure we use, it will be measured to you.” In your own words, what does this verse mean? How does someone “listen well?” (Hint: Read James 1:22-25)

5. Think of 1 or 2 people you know who have a strong and practical faith in God. Why, do you suppose, they have such a strong faith? (Is it because they were just naturally blessed with strong faith or do they tend to act on whatever faith they do have?) If faith is something that grows as you practice it, how could you put into practice your faith at this time?

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I'm sorry.
Thank you.
Please.

