

# PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Mark 4:21-34

(ESV)

[21] And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? [22] For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. [23] If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." [24] And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. [25] For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

[26] And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. [27] He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. [28] The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. [29] But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

[30] And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? [31] It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, [32] yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

[33] With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. [34] He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

## INTRODUCTION

A parable is a story, an illustration, a metaphor that draws a comparison between a common reality that is relatable to the listener and deeper spiritual insight from the teacher.

**Mark 1:15**—*"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS ON DISPLAY

The Kingdom of God fulfills its purpose when it is on display.

The Kingdom of God is on display through its King—Christ.

### Isaiah 9:2

*The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.*

**2 Corinthians 4:6**—*For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

The Kingdom of God is on display through its citizens—the church.

**Ephesians 5:8**—...*for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light...*

**Matthew 5:16**—*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

The message of the Kingdom is received by hearing; but hearing means hear and heed!

**Romans 10:17**—*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS FRUITFUL

The sower, those of us who share the message of the gospel, are called to both work hard and rest hard.

*“If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.”*

—**Charles Spurgeon**

**2 Corinthians 4:7**—*But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.*

We share the message, but God produces the results.

**1 Corinthians 3:7**—*So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.*

**John 15:5**—*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS INCREASING

The Kingdom of God may have seemed small at its inception, but it will outgrow and overtake every kingdom on earth.

**Habakkuk 2:14**

*For the earth will be filled  
with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.*

**Philippians 2:9–11**—*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*