

## **The One that Makes it Happen Mark 4:26-34**

### **What is the Kingdom of God?**

Mark 4:26a – *“The kingdom of God is like...”*

- The Kingdom of God is simply God’s authority and rule. It’s not a place, but it is God’s ruling action in the world to redeem and deliver a people, and then finish that work in the future by renewing His people and the universe completely.
- See Digging Deeper on the back for a list of verses on the Kingdom of God.

### **The growth of God’s kingdom is from God alone, not from our help or control.**

#### **The Parable of the Secretly Growing Seed. Mark 4:26-29**

Mark 4:27b – *“and the seed sprouts and grows - how, he himself does not know.”*

- What does this parable mean?
  - The kingdom of God is ultimately the work of God, which He will sovereignly bring to pass. The point is not that human effort is absent in proclaiming God’s Word and partnering in God’s work to advance His kingdom. It just tells one key truth about the kingdom—God is the one who saves and sanctifies.
- What does this parable mean for us today?
  - We have many plans for our future, our lives, our church, our ministries, our personal growth, and about the spread of the gospel – but the point is that you sow, then whatever happens next is up to God.
  - Proverbs 16:9; 19:21

### **The Kingdom of God will grow from nothing to massive because of God, not us.**

#### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed. Mark 4:30-32**

Mark 4:32a – *“yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants...”*

- What does this parable mean?
  - The Kingdom of God will have small and insignificant beginnings, but will grow into something great.
- What does this parable mean for us today?
  - You might look like a mustard seed to the world, but when you step into your God-given gifting by the power of the Holy Spirit, you have the power and potential for greatness in God’s Kingdom. It’s all because of Jesus, because it’s His kingdom.
  - Submit to God’s plan for growth, not our own. We can often look to formulas to figure out the spiritual life, but we must remember that God’s Spirit does the work within us. We submit, we don’t control.

**Communion:** Mark 14:25 - *“Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”* There is a future kingdom coming where the final battle is won. We look forward to that day and remember now that Jesus won the victory on the cross and through His resurrection.

## Digging Deeper: The Kingdom of God in the Scriptures

- Exodus 15:18 - The LORD shall reign forever and ever.
- 1 Chronicles 16:31 - Let the heavens be glad... And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."
- Psalm 99:1 - The LORD reigns, let the peoples tremble; He is enthroned *above* the cherubim, let the earth shake!
- Psalm 145:11-13 - They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom And talk of Your power; To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts And the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.
- Daniel 6:26 - I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion *will be* forever.
- Zechariah 14:9 - And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be *the only* one...
- Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.
- Matthew 6:33 - But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- Mark 1:15 - "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
- Mark 10:15 - Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it *at all*.
- Luke 9:2 - And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.
- Luke 11:20 - But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
- Luke 12:32 - Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.
- John 3:3 - "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- Acts 1:3 - To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them *over a period of forty days* and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.
- Acts 28:31 - preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.
- 1 Corinthians 6:10 - nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers...will inherit the kingdom of God.
- Col 1:13 - For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son
- Hebrews 12:28 - Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;
- Revelation 11:15 - Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."
- See also the parables of Matthew 13, 18, 20, 22 and 25

### LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Read Mark 4:26-34 again. Why do you think Jesus told these parables and Mark included them in his gospel? Then discuss a good definition for the Kingdom of God based on the scriptures listed here in the Digging Deeper.
2. Share a story about a time in your life where you had a plan and everything went sideways, but God worked it out for the ultimate good.
3. Have you tried formulas for spiritual success and struggled with it? How have formulas been helpful and how have formulas been harmful for you? What's the appropriate balance?

### Next Steps:

1. **Spend some time praying a Prayer of Release.** This is a prayer releasing your need to control, your need to be in charge, your need to affect the outcome of your spiritual life and your desire to manipulate God. Allow God's Spirit to give you peace because He is in charge and will achieve all the outcomes. As you become aware of your weakness, allow God's Spirit to overwhelm you by His power.
2. **Submit to God in obedience by being baptized** on Sunday, May 27 in the One Service at 10:00am. Come learn about this important next step as a follower of Jesus at a one-hour class on May 20 at 9:00 or 11:00 am in the Prayer Room where we'll explore biblical insights into the method and meaning of baptism. [calvarylife.org/baptism](http://calvarylife.org/baptism)
3. **Join in the growth of God's kingdom by sharing your faith** with someone and then trusting God to transform their lives. Continue to pray for Courage, Heart, Opportunities and Words to Say (CHOW).