

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 22ND, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

REVEALED (MARK 4:21–25)

HE ALSO SAID

Mark adds three parables that reinforce what was taught in the parable of the soils. If good soil received the good seed from the good sower, there would be a proper response.

- **Immediately, we are faced with an opportunity to examine our own response to God's good Word. How will we respond to each new parable?**

WHERE DO LAMPS BELONG?

Jesus says that lamps are meant to be seen. The idea of putting a flame under a bed or a basket seems ridiculous. That is the point.

- It is worth noting that the type of lamp Jesus referred to would have needed to be “filled” regularly to keep the light burning.
- **We have been given the truth about Jesus, and it has changed our lives. Do we keep that truth to ourselves, or can it be seen?**

REVEALED AND BROUGHT TO LIGHT

When the lamp is put in a high place, everything can be seen. Things that are dangerous in the dark become visible.

- Jesus has been teaching the Word, and it has been exposing secrets and hidden things in the hearts of the people.
- **As we read today, the Holy Spirit still does this same work in us. And a day is coming when everything will be revealed.**

IT WILL BE MEASURED

After calling them to pay attention to what they hear, Jesus lets them know that if they receive what He is saying, they will be given and understand even more.

- We must measure ourselves according to the Word. This obedience will lead to greater understanding and greater growth.
- **Judging others is not what makes us stronger; faithfully following Jesus does.**

EVEN WHAT HE HAS WILL BE TAKEN AWAY

More will be given to whoever has, but it is difficult to hear that something may be taken away from those who have little.

- This is a message to those who misuse the words of Jesus. **This is not just misunderstanding. This is an unfaithful rejection of the grace He offers.**
- **Refusing and manipulating God's Word will have consequences; some are eternal.**

GROWTH (MARK 4:26–34)

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The next two parables focus on the growth of the Kingdom of God. As people measure themselves according to His Word, they remain open to the message and the changes that God will make in their lives.

- **Being part of the Kingdom means growing in our relationship with Christ and seeing others enter into a relationship with Him. But we may not see it all at once.**

A MAN SCATTERS SEED ON THE GROUND

Jesus shares another agricultural parable, but this time it is not about the soil; it is about the seed growing in the good soil.

- Each person understood that seed was required to produce a crop, but they did not know the (scientific) process of growth.
- **Being a Christ follower does not mean we know everything. We are learning more every day, but there are things only God knows because He is the only one who can do what He does!**

AS SOON AS THE CROP IS READY

Jesus shares that the Kingdom of God (crop) is still growing. It will continue to grow as it is intended.

A day will come when its growth is final, and it will be the time for it to be revealed (harvested).

- **We sometimes ask, “How much longer do we have to deal with this mess?” Another question is, “Is what we are doing even making a difference?”**

LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

Jesus shares what Kingdom growth is like by pointing out the smallness of a mustard seed. In comparison to other seeds, it would not give the impression that it could yield the tallest plant in the garden.

- They really didn't know what would happen over the next few years, much less the next 2,000 years.
- **We may not see it all, but what we do is NOT insignificant! God is growing His Kingdom around us, in us, and through us.**

PARABLES LIKE THESE

Mark tells us that Jesus spoke many parables just like the ones we read today. Some people were able to hear with receptive understanding, and His disciples had the benefit of Jesus' explanations.

- Parables are not meant to confuse us. God uses them to reveal truth to us, if we are willing to receive it in humility.
- **Too often, we are hope hunters, looking for all the sweet things that make us feel better. They are there, but we need to hear the hard things.**

PEACE (MARK 4:35–41)

ON THAT DAY

Jesus had spent the day teaching to a large crowd. Considering the previous parables, we can imagine that His disciples had many powerful growth principles on their minds.

- The crowd was still there, and it seemed reasonable to cross the sea in the boat instead of fighting the crowd. Jesus knew He was not done teaching.
- **If we will keep our hearts open, Jesus will teach us even when we do not expect it. He knows what is coming and He knows what we need.**

A GREAT WINDSTORM

Without warning, a great windstorm begins to send large waves into the boat. They had made it far enough out to sea that swimming back was not an option. The boat was filling with water and was about to sink.

- Some of these men were seasoned fishermen. They may not have expected the situation, but they did understand what would happen next: death.
- **Even when we have experience, knowledge, and wisdom, we can still face storms.**

HE (JESUS) WAS IN THE STERN, SLEEPING

This sentence does not just let us know where and what Jesus was doing during the storm, it reveals that Jesus was human, aside from sin.

- He got hungry (Matthew 4:2), He got angry (Mark 3:5), He cried (John 11:35), He died (the cross). This is the only time in the Gospels that we read of Jesus sleeping.
- He was human and everyone on the boat could see that. What they did not know was that He was and still is divine.

DON'T YOU CARE?!

In a perfect world, the disciples would laugh at the windstorm and waves drowning the boat. They would have known that the One who cast out demons and healed paralytics would see them to the other side.

- **What miracles have we seen? How has God changed us and the people around us? How many times has He rescued us from ourselves?**
- **Are we still surprised when the storms arise in our lives? Have WE cared enough to remember?**

SILENCE! BE STILL!

In fear, they cried out to Jesus. In power, He rebuked the wind and the sea.

- We are not surprised when we read it because we know Jesus is God and has power over all creation, and creation obeys His commands.
- It seems that by this point, the disciples should have concluded that the power to tame storms or protect them through it belonged to Jesus.
- **They still had more to learn. Maybe we do, too.**

WHY ARE YOU AFRAID?

Jesus did not ask this question because He was worried about their faith. He asked it to reveal who He is. He knew their hearts and He knew what else would happen in their lives as they grew in faith and obedience.

- At this point, they were afraid to have the faith that would be required of them in a few years.
- **How are we doing? Are we terrified to have faith? Maybe it is time for us to hear, “Peace! Be still!”**

BEGIN

- Every journey has a beginning.
- **Have we taken the first step?**
- **Just like the lamp, we need Jesus to give us the light. That is the gospel, and it is here. It will shine into our lives and reveal the dark places. It also shows us where to take steps. Are we willing to step forward, or will we remain in our darkness?**

GROW

- We simply will not GROW unless we GO.
- **Following Jesus is about taking steps in our lives to follow Him in obedience.**
- **As we follow Him, we may not understand everything. Even when we question our effectiveness, we can trust His promise to grow His kingdom. Are we taking steps? Where are we going? Do we know where we will be when we get there?**

VICTORY

- We want to win. We need victory.
- **Before we became Christ followers, we were “lost,” but we are not lost now!**
- **Jesus won victory over sin and death at the cross and through His resurrection. Of all the things in our lives today, nothing is bigger than that. It was His victory given to us. Does that victory pervade our lives, or does life invade our victory?**