

a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" Revelation 7:9–10 (ESV)

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything. Mark 4:33–34 (ESV)

### Applications

1. The good news of Jesus is like having a lamp. We are to shine it, not hide it under a basket or bed.
2. We must not just hear God's Word, but we must apply it to our life. How we respond to God's word leads to spiritual growth or decline.
3. God calls us to plant the seed of the gospel. He will take care of germinating the seed of the gospel and bring it to full maturity.
4. The kingdom of God may start out small but it will grow to bless the nations.

### Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 4:21-34 to familiarize yourself with the passage. How did these verses change your thinking about the importance of not just hearing but of applying the Bible? What truth did you learn that you did not know?
2. Mark 4:21 says the gospel is like a lamp in a dark room. As Christians, we are repeatedly told to be lights in a world of darkness. What do these verses teach us about the way the light of Christ is to shine from our heart into the lives of others? (2 Corinthians 4:6, Philippians 2:15, John 2:7-11, Matthew 5:16)
3. In Mark 4:24, Jesus taught the importance of paying close attention to spiritual truth so we don't just hear it, but we also apply it. The more spiritual truth we apply, the more spiritual truth God gives. If we ignore God's truth, we will lose what little truth we have. What do these verses teach us about the way the principle of the measure applies to other areas of life? (2 Corinthians 9:6, Galatians 6:7, 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, Revelation 22:12, Luke 6:37-38, Matthew 25:14-29)
4. The parable of the growing seed provides great comfort. It reminds us that all spiritual life and growth finds its source in God, not in our strength. How do these verses change the way you think about spiritual life and growth? (1 Corinthians 3:6-7, Philippians 1:6, 1 Thessalonians 3:12)

# MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

## Mark 4:21-34 – Parables Of The Kingdom

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### 1. The Parable Of The Soils

- A. Some hearts are like hard-packed soil. They are unresponsive to the gospel.
- B. Some hearts are like rocky soil. They respond superficially to the gospel and fall away when the gospel costs something.
- C. Some hearts are like weed-infested soil. The cares and pleasures of this world choke their spiritual life. They never produce spiritual fruit.
- D. Some hearts are good soil. They are prepared by God and produce an abundant spiritual harvest.

### 2. The Parable Of The Lamp

*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? For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." Mark 4:21–23 (ESV)*

**Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand?...**

Everyone who has the light of the gospel has an obligation to share it, not to hide it.

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 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. Matthew 5:14–16 (ESV)*

For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light....

### 3. The Parable Of The Measure

*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. 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." Mark 4:24–25 (ESV)*

**Pay attention to what you hear...**

Jesus is talking about how we hear spiritual truth.

**With the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you...**

*Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. Galatians 6:7 (ESV)*

The spiritual growth we experience will be in proportion to the spiritual growth we pursue.

**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.**

When we hear and obey God's word we are given more understanding. If we ignore God's word, the little understanding we have will be taken away.

### 4. The Parable Of The Growing Seed

*And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." Mark 4:26–29 (ESV)*

**He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.**

God asks us to scatter the seed of the gospel. He will take care of growing the gospel seed to full maturity.

**The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.**

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6 (ESV)*

### 5. The Parable Of The Mustard Seed

*And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 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." Mark 4:30–32 (ESV)*

The kingdom of God may start small but it will eventually grow to bless the nations.

*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with*