

Kingdom Stories

The Gospel of Mark Series – Part 14

Scripture text – Mark 4:26-34

Introduction

- Toward a richer, fuller understanding of the work of Christ:
 1. He came to _____ the kingdom of God.
 2. He came to _____ the kingdom of God.
 3. He came to ensure the _____ of the kingdom of God.
- There is one more work of Christ with respect to the kingdom of God; namely, to _____ the kingdom at his return.
- In the next 2 parables, Jesus describes what the kingdom of God is _____.

The Parable of the Growing Seed

1. This parable is a _____ to the parable of the soils, which the disciples probably found somewhat _____.
 - The point of this parable is that the Word of God possesses its own _____.
 - Verse 28: “all by itself” = Gk: *automatos* = _____
 - For this reason, we have every reason to _____ in sowing the Word of God.
2. This parable is also a _____ to the expectations & assumptions of Jesus’ listeners.
 - They expected the arrival of the kingdom of God to be more _____.
 - Instead, just as a seed grows slowly & _____, and by processes not fully understood, so too the kingdom of God.
 - Thus, to confidence, we must add _____.
 - What Jesus inaugurated cannot be _____.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

- This parable reveals the _____ to which the kingdom of God will grow.
- Like a mustard seed, the kingdom of God will grow from _____ to _____.

- However, the growth won't be an ever _____ trajectory. There will be setbacks and even periods of time when the kingdom _____.
- As a matter of fact, as history nears completion, the kingdom of God will appear completely _____. This sets the stage for a sudden & dramatic _____ by God, which the prophets called "*The Great _____ of the LORD.*"
- Two cautions:
 1. Beware of so-called _____ Theology. This is the view that, prior to the return of Christ, a purified church will take control of the _____ major spheres of influence in the world.
 2. Beware of presuming the consummation of the kingdom is in the _____ future.