

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: Mark -The Simple Gospel | Week 15: The Unstoppable Kingdom

**Mark 4:21-25** (NLT)

## ***Parable of the Lamp***

<sup>21</sup> Then Jesus asked them, “Would anyone light a lamp and then put it under a basket or under a bed? Of course not! A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light will shine. <sup>22</sup> For everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light. <sup>23</sup> Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

<sup>24</sup> Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more. <sup>25</sup> To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.”

**Truth is meant to be seen.**

**Our Christianity is meant to be seen.**

**Matthew 5:16** (NLT)

<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

*“There is something about the truth which is indestructible. Some people may refuse to face it; they may try to suppress it; they may even try to obliterate it; they may refuse to accept it, but ‘great is the truth and in the end it will prevail.’” - William Barclay*

**Romans 1:16-17** (NLT)

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

**Matthew 10:32-33** (NLT)

<sup>32</sup> “Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

**Mark 4:26-29** (NLT)

## ***Parable of the Growing Seed***

<sup>26</sup> Jesus also said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. <sup>29</sup> And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.”

1) It tells us of human helplessness and God’s sovereignty.

2) It tells us something about the Kingdom.

- Nature's growth is often imperceptible.
- Nature's growth is constant.
- Nature's growth is inevitable.

3) It tells us there is a consummation.

*"If we live in patience which cannot be defeated, in hope which cannot despair, and in preparation which always sees life in light of eternity, we shall, by the grace of God, be ready for his consummation when it comes."* - **William Barclay**

**Mark 4:30-34** (NLT)

***Parable of the Mustard Seed***

<sup>30</sup>Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, <sup>32</sup>but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade."

<sup>33</sup>Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand. <sup>34</sup>In fact, in his public ministry he never taught without using parables; but afterward, when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

*"We simply need to forget about trying to see the fruit of our service immediately. It does not matter if we ever see it. We are called to take the light and let it shine, then let God do with it whatever He pleases."* - **R.C. Sproul**

**Isaiah 40:18** (NLT)

<sup>18</sup>To whom can you compare God?

What image can you find to resemble him?

*"The challenge for us, as readers of Jesus' parables in a very different world, is to think out what we have to do to be kingdom-workers, kingdom-explainers, in our own day. How can we strike fresh chords so that people will be teased into picking out the notes, and perhaps even joining the song?"* - **N.T. Wright**