

INTRO

Is this going to work?

Context – A series of parables

4:1-20 → Parable of sower, different responses to Gospel message

4:21-25 → Parable of lamp and measure, warnings for a negative response to Gospel message

4:26-34 → Parable of growing seed, promises for a positive response to Gospel message.

Growth

Automatic growth

αὐτομάτη – being self-caused, or without evident cause

He sleeps night and day... He knows not how it grows... the earth produces by itself...

Isaiah 55:11 “so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

Scattering the seed

There is one requirement for the growth to happen – scattering the seed

So... then what would you say our duty is?

With confidence in its power
With clarity in its message
With conviction of its truth
With commitment to God
With courage in our hearts
With Christ at our side

Glory

How the Bible works

Side question: *The orchid seed is smaller than a mustard seed. Was Jesus wrong?*

RC Sproul tells of a NT Professor at one of the largest seminaries in America, who was teaching his students that one could no longer believe in the inerrancy of Scripture because there is a clear mistake in the NT. The mustard seed is not the smallest seed...

Inerrancy is this: what the author was communicating is without error.

The smallest seed to the largest plant

Obscure, Unimpressive, Weak, Seemingly Insignificant

The birds of the air make nests in its shade...

Daniel 4:12-21 → The tree was Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon

Ezekiel 31:6 → The tree was Egypt

Great kingdoms established by military might, chariots, soldiers, power, and war.

Ezekiel 17:23 → The tree comes from a sprig, planted by God, on the mountain in Israel

What hope!

God's kingdom will put an end to all of the evil and wicked kingdoms on earth.

God's kingdom be established and grow automatically. The word will get the job done.

God's kingdom will be established through smallness.

Questions for Personal Study

1. What will cause the kingdom of God to grow? How do you contribute to that?
2. Do you have an example in your life of “automatic” growth that comes from the word?
3. Do you expect God's kingdom to come through power and greatness or weakness and obscurity?
4. How do you gain hope from God's coming kingdom?