



Sermon Series: Kingdom Ways Week 5

Sermon Title: Testimonies of Faith

Date: 3/17/2024

Mark 4:26-29

Big Idea: We are not the source of Salvation the Gospel is.

1. Planting the Seed (Share his word)

Mark 4:26

The gospel is the good news. It's that we've All sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (**Romans 3:23**). And the wages of sin, in other words, the cost of our immoral, ungodly acts, is [eternal] death (**Romans 6:23**). You're probably thinking Chris how is this good news?! Jesus was alluding here in his parable about something he would do that would allow us to be free from sin and its eternal consequence. **John 3:16**

For you to Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9). This is the good news. If you're a believer in Jesus Christ. Then, you are the farmer in this parable. You are being called to share about God's kingdom.

You are not responsible for how readily someone else receives the truth about Jesus - It's not our responsibility to make people accept it. It's simply our responsibility to scatter the seed.

2. Watching it Grow (Being Available)

Mark 4:27-28

Now, if you're like me, then I'm sure you'd like to go to your unbelieving friends and family and speed up the process of them coming to know Jesus. Imagine it like having a little pot with some soil in it with a single seed. Now,

imagine trying to make it grow faster. Maybe if we just dumped buckets of water on it or added a ton of fertilizer. More of the word, more prayer, more preaching, more talking, more small groups, more explaining. But what's going to end up happening to the seed? What could have grown naturally is now drowned in water and mud because we've overwhelmed it.

One of the most freeing truths we can accept is that the Gospel of Jesus depends not on our might or intervention but on God's. **Romans 1:16**

Like the farmer in this parable, after we plant the seed, our job is to be present and available. We watch and wait, and the crop will signal that it's growing even without our intervention. It means we don't accept the weight of growing their faith as our responsibility but rather God's delight.

Your job isn't to force (or facilitate) someone else's faith to grow.

3. Harvest when it's time (helping them take the next step when they're ready)

Mark 4:29

When the grain is ripe... When people are ready to receive Jesus -don't hesitate to help them take that next step. Think back to the journey they may have taken to get to this moment of acceptance. The one Jesus told, and how that story played out in three different lives.

Some have yet to come to faith.

Some who have.

Some are still struggling.

Go out and start scattering seeds. You know your role now, and you know God's. He's equipped you with the good news. Now go out and make disciples who make disciples!

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **How would you counsel a Christian who feels guilty for another person rejecting Jesus?**
- **Your job isn't to force someone else's faith to grow. But do you have any responsibility in that area? Explain**
- **How do you determine if/ when you need to withdraw from sharing the gospel with someone?**
- **Is there someone in your life that you regularly witness to but they continually rejects Jesus? Explain.**