



Sermon Series: Kingdom Ways Week 6

Sermon Title: Rest Here

Date: 3/24/2024

Mark 4:30-34

Mark 4:30 gives us important Context. In teaching Kingdom Ways - Jesus has been speaking to his disciples and followers through parables to hide the truth from those who seek to eliminate him and those who don't believe in him. At the same time, Jesus reveals what the Kingdom of God is all about. For you and I, even though the Kingdom of God might seem far away to some if you have ears to hear.

Big Idea: Seek Rest in God's kingdom

If you've come to know that you are living in God's kingdom, it frees you in so many other ways in your life. The news will bother you less, the pressures of this world will stress you less, and relational pressures will be lessened as you live under the authority and guidance of God's Word.

The Mustard Seed reveals three important Reasons.

1. The Kingdom of God appears small at first

Mark 4:31

In Jesus' day, "small as a mustard seed" was a common phrase to refer to the smallest possible measurement. The mustard seed would have been known to be the smallest seed that a 1st-century Jewish family would plant in their home garden.

The point Jesus is making is that even if the Kingdom of God were to start out infinitely small, – it would not stay that way for long. Once you are saved – excitement builds as God uses you and me to tell one more person about the opportunity to have Jesus change their lives!

2. The Kingdom of God is larger than any other

Mark 4:32

The mustard seed starts from the smallest of beginnings - in Israel is known to grow ten to twelve up to 15 feet. Our Faith in Christ begins with our One Savior, sharing with twelve men, and has EXPLODED since then.

There are an estimated 2.38 billion followers in the world today. It all started with ONE – Jesus, our Savior, just like the tiny seed.

3. The Kingdom of God is a place of rest

Mark 4:32

From a tiny seed, a large shelter is created – and although the birds aren't valuable to people, God has his watchful eye on them. God makes provisions for them to nest, rest, and multiply, thanks to the shade of that plant.

Mark 4:33-34

With these important words, Jesus ends his teaching in parables for a while. Also, Jesus allows us to hear how clearly and privately he taught his disciples. Never underestimate the importance of the apostle's teachings, which are recorded in the scriptures. They heard everything DIRECTLY from Jesus!

Even today, Jesus is hiding the ways of God's Kingdom from those who do not believe in him and revealing everything to those who follow Him.

The kingdom of God is larger than most people know. The news reports on strife, poverty, death, violence, and wars. But God's kingdom is bringing peace, provision, and eternal life for all who believe in Jesus as Lord.

It's time for you to decide to follow the God who loves you! He cares for you enough to have His Kingdom waiting personally for you!

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **How do you define the kingdom of God?**
- **Describe how God has given you rest during difficult times.**
- **What are some reasons Christians don't share the gospel?**
- **What role have you had in growing God's kingdom?**