

The Way of Jesus: Parables of the Kingdom of God

Missy Carfield · Sunday, August 16, 2026

Scripture: Mark 4:21-32

Summary

Jesus teaches through three kingdom parables that He is the lamp meant to shine openly, that we faithfully scatter seed while God alone grows it, and that the smallest mustard-seed faith becomes a sheltering tree by God's greatness.

Overview

Continuing in Mark 4, Missy unpacks three parables of the kingdom. First, the lamp: a careful Greek reading asks not "do you bring a lamp" but "does the lamp come" to be hidden under a basket--Jesus Himself is the lamp who came to bring the light of the kingdom into darkness, never to remain concealed. Darkness cannot quench light (illustrated by opening a dark closet). With the measure we display Him, more is given; if we hide Him, even what we have is taken. Second, the growing seed: a sower scatters and sleeps; growth is imperceptible yet real--comfort for discouraged pastors and believers who feel they are spinning their wheels. We plant; God grows. Third, the mustard seed: from nearly invisible beginnings God grows something large enough for birds to nest in shade--pointing to the greatness of God, not the seed. God's word never returns void; our job is to show up, keep seeding, and take the bushel off the light.

Key points

- "Does the lamp come" (not merely "a lamp"): Jesus is the lamp who came to shine, not stay hidden
- God is light; His word is a lamp; Jesus says "I am the light"--do not hide Him
- Darkness cannot quench light; when Jesus shows up, darkness loses
- Measure you use: display Him and more is given; hide Him and even what you have is taken
- Growing seed: plant and sleep--kingdom growth is often imperceptible but true; God does the growing
- Mustard seed: tiny faithfulness planted becomes transformational shelter by God's providence
- God's word never returns void--keep seeding it; take the bushel off and put the lamp on the stand

Memorable lines

"Does the lamp come in order to be put under a basket?"

"I am the lamp--don't miss it and don't hide it."

"Light will always quench the darkness; darkness cannot remain dark when the light of Jesus shows up."

"You plant the seed and then you go to sleep--this is what the kingdom of God is like."

"God's word never returns void."

"Your job is to show up; your job is to be faithful with it--God grows it."

Takeaway

This week, take the bushel off: display the light of Jesus where you live and work, scatter the seed of His word faithfully, and trust God--not your visible results--for the growth.

Source: Bay Point Church livestream / YouTube (whisper transcript; no YT auto-captions)

<https://youtube.com/live/fjpzd3cj-OY>