



May 10 Sermon Reflection and Reading Guide

Key Points to reflect on from today's service: Mark 4:26-35

- Today we heard stories about what God is doing in Mexico, India and our local community. How is God using this pandemic in your life? Commit to pray for the ministry of Lightshine in Mexico, for Ramachandra in India and for those in need in our local community.
- The people in Jesus' day expected the Kingdom of God to come suddenly, big, loud and with force. They expected the Messiah to be this conquering figure who would throttle their enemies and bring justice. Jesus says that the Kingdom of God is here, but Jesus didn't look anything like what the people expected. Jesus came humbly and quietly and only had a small band of followers. And through these parables, Jesus is saying, "do not be deceived. The Kingdom has small beginnings but will nonetheless fulfill the Old Testament prophecies and fill the earth."
- The first parable describes how the kingdom grows (through the Sovereign work of God) and the second parable describes how big the Kingdom grows in spite of its small beginnings.
- Let me encourage you: **do not despise small things**. Isn't it the case that we often value big things? So often we think big is better and we often despise small things. We think that God works primarily through big events and big gatherings and big moments. And its not that God never uses those things but instead he uses small things. God loves to use small things...seemingly small people and small moments.
- What "small things" is God calling you to be faithful in?
- Value faithfulness in small things. So often we want and expect God to give us a lot when we haven't even been faithful with the small things that he has given us. Be faithful in the little things.
- We sit in a different place than Jesus' audience. They only saw the small beginning. We have seen a large part of the fulfillment of this parable (throughout history billions of people have confessed Jesus as King and the Gospel has been heard around the world). How does this amaze you and encourage you? How does this fill you hope as you look forward to the promise of Jesus' return to restore everything?
- How do these parables encourage you in your ministry?

Daily Bible Reading for this Week

5/11: John 3

5/12: John 4

5/13: John 5

5/14: John 6

5/15: John 7

For Group Leaders and Group Discussion

Use zoom to connect with group members. The first 40 meetings are free. There is a need to use this time wisely. So divide your time into three increments:

- Check in: ask each person to tell the group how they are doing and how the group can pray for them.
- Discuss sermon and reading: what has God been teaching you through His Word and the teaching from Sunday? How can you apply what you are reading? How are you sharing the love of Jesus with others or how can you share the love of Jesus with others this week?
- Read one of the chapters from this past week. From that passage ask: what does the text say (make as many observations as you can)? What does it mean? How can you/we apply it?