



mark

THE GOSPEL IN ACTION

Intro: A Coming Kingdom



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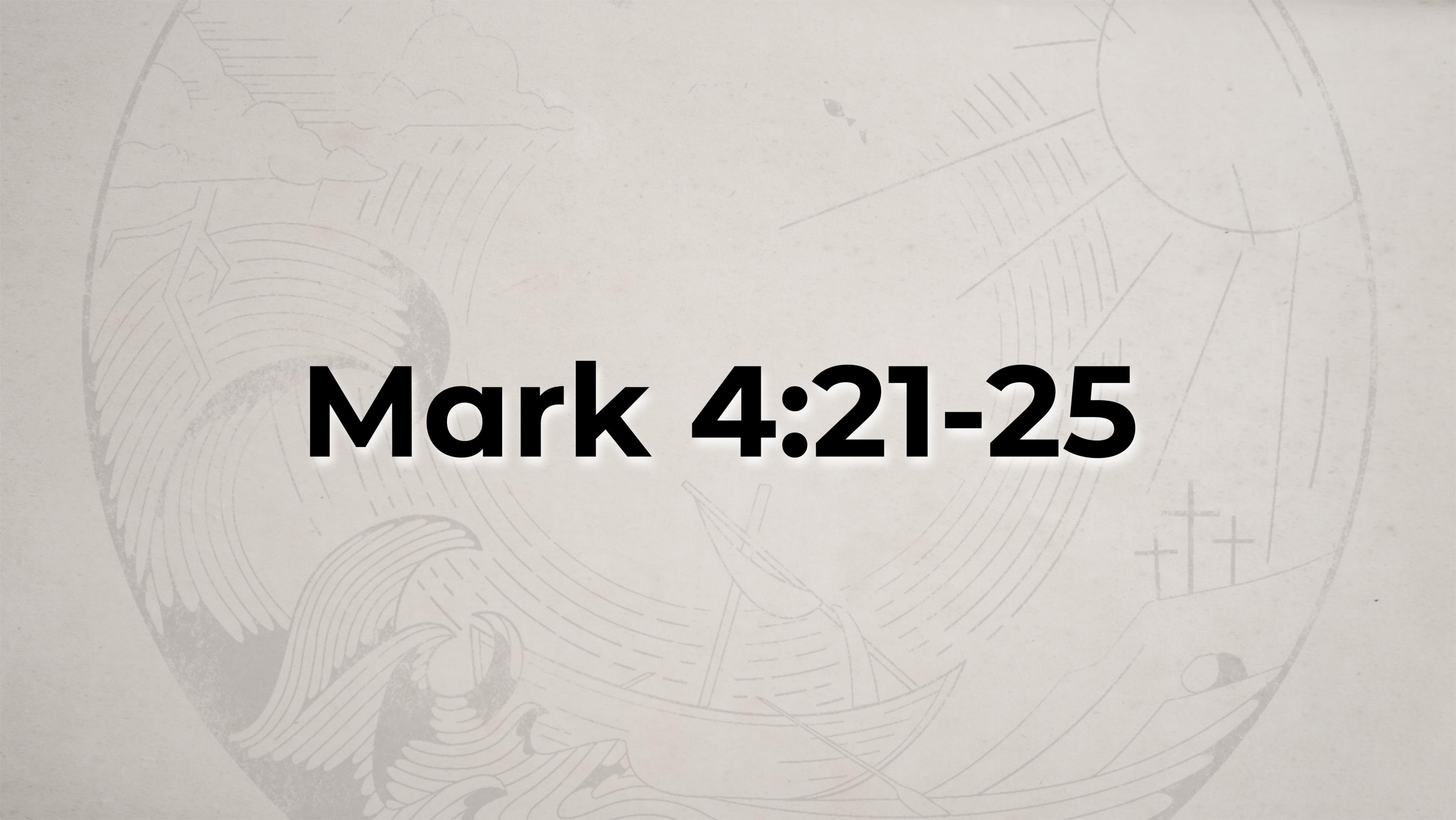
Jesus teaches FOUR parables in Mark 4 which demonstrate that the KINGDOM of God is a "mystery" and will not unfold in the way the world expects.

Intro: A Coming Kingdom

**Those Jews who accepted Jesus
as the Messiah firmly believed
He would bring the Kingdom
NOW!**

Intro: A Coming Kingdom

But in Mark 4, Jesus presents the Kingdom as a tiny seed (now) that will grow into the fullness of the Kingdom (in the future).

The background features a circular, light-colored illustration. It depicts a turbulent sea with large, curling waves. In the lower right, a boat is shown, partially obscured by the waves. The sky is filled with dark, swirling patterns representing a storm. The overall style is that of a traditional woodcut or engraving, rendered in a very light, almost ghostly tone.

Mark 4:21-25

I. The Purpose of THE Lamp (21-25)

The SUBJECT of verse 21 in the Greek is "THE Lamp"

I. The Purpose of THE Lamp (21-25)

Jesus is not referring to any old lamp... HE is the Lamp.

I. The Purpose of THE Lamp (21-25)

“With the measure you use, it will be measured to you... and even more.” What does this mean?

I. The Purpose of THE Lamp (21-25)

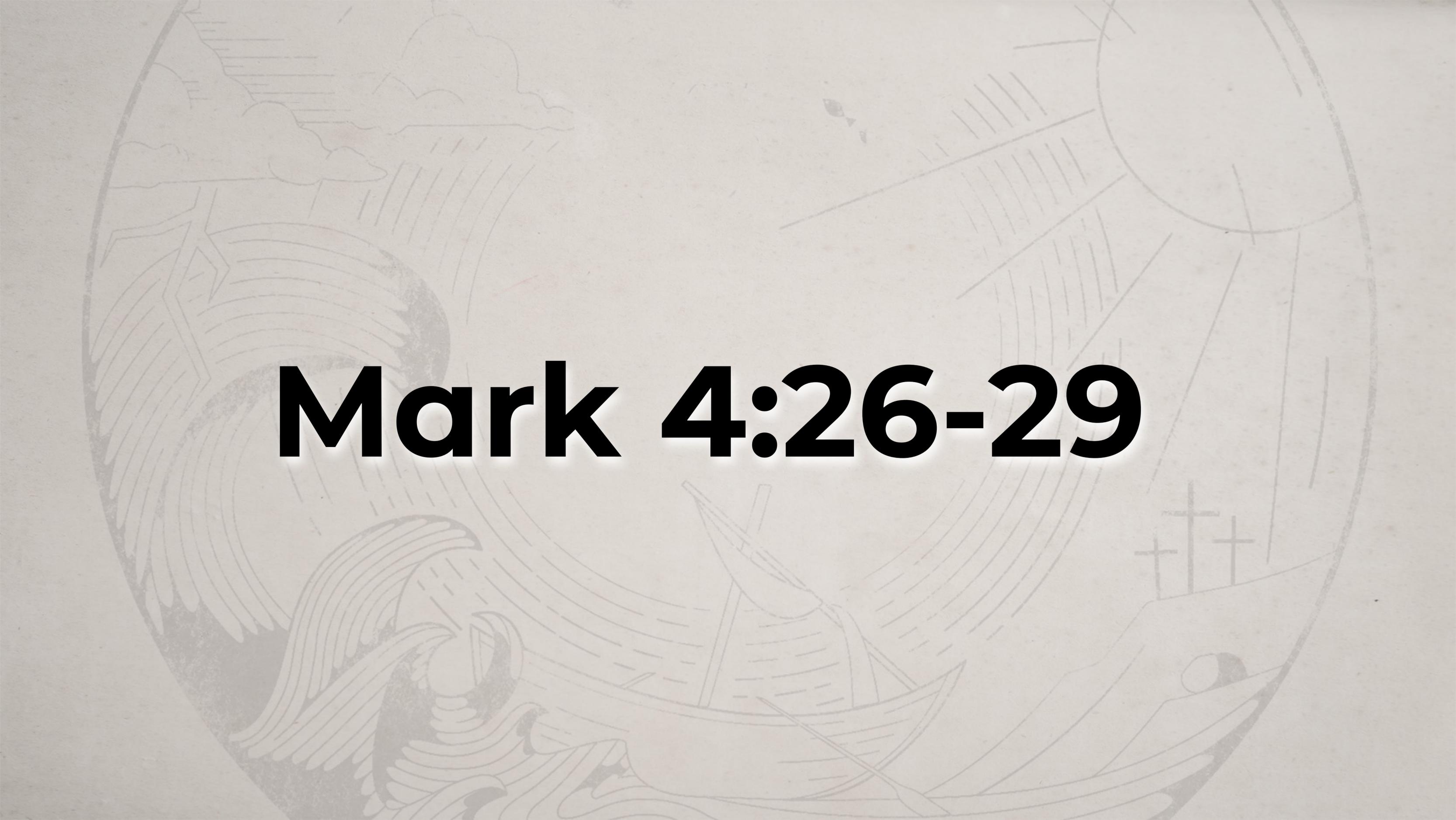
If you TRUST in Jesus... he is your light... then God will cause the light to function in your life! And even more... you will receive the Kingdom!

I. The Purpose of THE Lamp (21-25)

If you REJECT Jesus... putting the Lamp under a bowl... God will deal with you according to that measure. He allows you to continue in the dark (not seeing).

I. The Purpose of THE Lamp (21-25)

**BELIEVE AND
YOU WILL SEE!**

A faint, circular background illustration depicting a stormy sea. In the foreground, a boat is shown navigating through large, dark waves. In the distance, a lighthouse with a cross on top is visible on a rocky shore. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, and the overall scene conveys a sense of danger and struggle.

Mark 4:26-29

II. How a Seed Grows (26-29)

Between the scattering of the seed and the Harvest... *something* is happening. The seed is **GROWING**.

II. How a Seed Grows (26-29)

The farmer can provide the *conditions* for growth... but only God can **CAUSE** the seed to grow.

II. How a Seed Grows (26-29)

Jesus is explaining that in the Harvest, the Sower plays a part... an God plays a part.

II. How a Seed Grows (26-29)

People tend to miss the mark in one of two ways:

- 1. We forget that GOD is involved in the Harvest**
- 2. We forget that WE are involved in the Harvest**

II. How a Seed Grows (26-29)

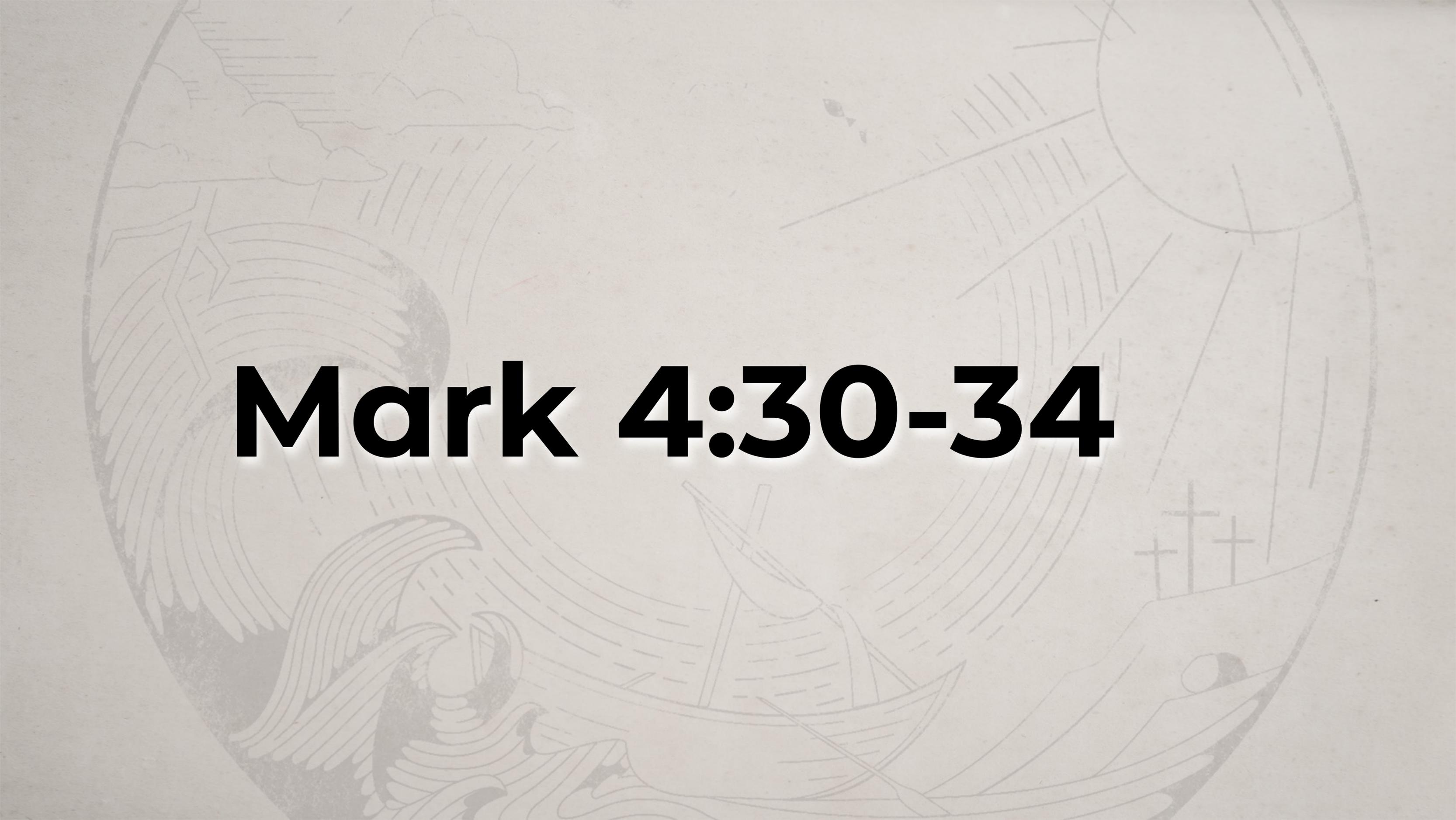
When we forget that GOD is involved, we see the Harvest as all about US... we force conversations... we try to convince people.

II. How a Seed Grows (26-29)

It is NOT a good idea to harvest the grain before the shoot has begun to grow!

II. How a Seed Grows (26-29)

When we forget that WE are involved in the Harvest, we will not share the Gospel... we will not look for opportunities to Harvest... and we miss out on the work God has given us to do.

A faint, circular background illustration of a stormy sea. The scene is rendered in a light, sketchy style. In the foreground, a large, curling wave is depicted with many fine lines. In the middle ground, a boat is shown, partially obscured by the wave. The background features a sky with clouds and a sun or moon in the upper right corner. The overall tone is muted and atmospheric.

Mark 4:30-34

III. Small Seed, Big Tree (30-34)

This final parable points to the contrast between the humble **BEGINNINGS** of the Kingdom and the glorious fulfillment!

III. Small Seed, Big Tree (30-34)



III. Small Seed, Big Tree (30-34)

The Jews are expecting a CEDAR... a conquering King of a Messiah, who would drive out Rome and establish God's Kingdom on Earth NOW!

III. Small Seed, Big Tree (30-34)

The sum total of Jesus' earthly efforts appears more like a mustard seed... yet what He has set in motion will result in a **FUTURE Kingdom** that will be greater than **ANY** earthly Kingdom!

III. Small Seed, Big Tree (30-34)

Don't miss the BIRDS in the branches. What makes God's Kingdom so great is that it will include people from every Nation, Tribe, and Tongue!

Conclusion: Do You HEAR What I Hear?

Application #1: The death of Jesus on a Roman Cross was NOT a failure on His part. Jesus did not come to bring the Kingdom NOW... He came to plant a seed.

Conclusion: Do You HEAR What I Hear?

Application #2: The fullness of the Kingdom lies in the future. God is causing the seed to grow, but we must TRUST that God is doing what He promised.

Conclusion: Do You HEAR What I Hear?

Application #3: The Kingdom is for ALL people (the birds on the branches). The Jews struggled with the inclusion of Gentiles. Do we struggle with scattering seed among ALL people?

Conclusion: Do You HEAR What I Hear?





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