

## Parable of the Growing Seed

Mark 4:26-29

The three parables of the sower, the growing seed, and the mustard seed are pictures of God's activity in the world throughout history. They are also vibrant pictures of future Christ-followers until Jesus comes back for His bride the church.

Recapping the two previous sermons, Jesus used parables to communicate with His followers using word pictures. The Bible records that Jesus' faithful followers would understand His parables because their hearts were in tune with His. The parables of Jesus, correctly understood, illustrate the following:

- Focuses on the nature of God and His kingdom
- Highlights the behavior of those who are indeed God's people
- Describes the activity and/or destiny of the unrighteous

The Parable of the Growing Seed is also called the Parable of the Seed Growing Secretly. This parable illustrates the movement of God's word. It stresses God's sovereignty as displayed in the matter of man's salvation and its effect in every sphere of life.

The three focus elements of the Parable of the Growing Seed are:

- **The Kingdom of God** – a picture of God's sovereignty (**Psalm 145:11-13**); what is man's responsibility in the kingdom of God? Christ guarantees that His kingdom reign will be forever.
- **Kingdom Growth** – Christ says growth is a mystery; it is the domain of God (**Isaiah 55:10-11**); it's a process (**Mark 4:28**)
- **Kingdom Harvest** – is a metaphor for judgment (**Joel 3:13-14**), and Christ assures the harvest. The parable conveys that God's timing, not man, governs the harvest.

Thought to ponder...

**"... the power to sprout and grow has *by God* embedded in the seed, and man can do nothing about this – after scattering the seed, all he can do is sleep and rise – the harvest is assured. Christ's kingdom, his royal reign, shall expand and shall one day reveal itself in all its splendor."**

W. Hendriksen, *The Gospel of Mark, According to Mark*, p.182