



## MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **KINGDOM GROWTH**  
Series: **Stories of the Kingdom**  
Text: Mark 4:1-9; 13-18  
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **September 8, 2024**

*“The time has come,” he said. “The **Kingdom of God is near.** Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:14)*

### **WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?**

*“The Kingdom of God is where God reigns and particularly where He reigns over men and women.” K.L. Schmidt*

*“The Kingdom of God is His kingship, His rule, His authority.” George Ladd*

*“The sovereign activity of God as king in saving sinners and overcoming evil, and the new order which is thus established.” Dictionary*

*The New Testament refers to the Kingdom of God as a **Future (eschatological) event** and a **PRESENT reality**. So the Kingdom of God is **Already HERE and Not Yet HERE.***

### **HOW DOES THE KINGDOM GROW?**

#### **1. Jesus Tells a Story about KINGDOM \_\_\_\_\_ !**

- **Again Jesus began to teach by the lake.** *The crowd that gathered around him was so large that **he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake**, while all the people were along the shore at the water’s edge. (Mk 4:1).*
- **Listen!** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ! ) *A farmer went out to sow his seed. (Mk 4:3).*
  - This “Listen!” is Jesus’ command to the hearers to open themselves up to Jesus and to the word he is giving them, to become **receptive, porous, deeply attentive.**

**IF YOU WILL OPEN YOUR \_\_\_\_\_, JESUS WILL OPEN YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ !**

#### **2. \_\_\_\_\_ THE WORD OF GOD!**

- The farmer **sows the word.** (Mark 4:14)
- I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but **God made it grow.** 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only **God, who makes things grow.** (1 Co 3:6–7).

**IF YOU WILL OPEN YOUR \_\_\_\_\_, JESUS WILL OPEN YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ !**

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **MOVES FROM ONE STAGE TO ANOTHER.**

- The word sometimes lies on **the hard surface** of the hearers' lives, allowing Satan a chance to quickly swoop down and **snatch it away**.
  - Some people are like seed **along the path**, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. (Mk 4:15).
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- The word sometimes lands **in a rocky place**. People hear the word with joy, but lacking any root, **they fall away** when trouble comes.
  - 16 Others, like seed sown **on rocky places**, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When **trouble or persecution** comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. (Mk 4:16–17).
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- The word sometimes lands in **a thorn patch**. The word is heard, but soon enough worldly cares, wealth, and other distractions **choke the word**.
  - Still others, like seed sown among **thorns**, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and **choke the word, making it unfruitful**.(Mk 4:18–19).
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- The word sometimes lands on **the good soil**. The word is **heard and accepted**.
  - Others, like seed sown on **good soil**, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—**thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown**.” (Mk 4:20).
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IF YOU WILL OPEN YOUR \_\_\_\_\_, JESUS WILL OPEN YOUR \_\_\_\_\_!

**ARE YOU GROWING?**