

# The Gospel of Mark: Parables - Part 3

## The Tiny Seed

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Part of The Gospel of Mark Parables

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The visible world is designed to make known the invisible things of God.

*They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created people have seen the earth and the sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.*

—Romans 1:19-20 (NLT)

- **General Revelation - Nature**

*Jesus taught men to see the operation of God in the regular and the normal - in the rising of the sun and the falling of the rain and the growth of the plant.*

—William Temple

- **Special Revelation - Jesus, the Bible**

- **It is enough.**

**Pay attention.**

*He who has ears to hear, let him hear.*

—Mark 4:9 (ESV)

*Jesus said, "Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding will be given - and you will receive even more. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them."*

—Mark 4: 24-25 (NLT)

*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*

—Isaiah 40:8 (ESV)

**The Parable of the Growing Seed**

*Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.*

—Mark 4:26-29

**The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

*Jesus said, How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade.*

*—Mark 4: 30-32 (NLT); also in Matthew 13:31-32*



## **A tiny seed is all you need.**

*My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.*

—2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)



## **A tiny seed is all you need - in the beginning!**

*Afterward, the disciples asked Jesus privately, "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?" "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."*

—Matthew 17:19-20 (NLT)

## **A seed is meant to bear fruit.**

- **Jesus loves us too much to leave us as we are.**

*"Where are you accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"... "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."*

—John 8:11 (NLT)

*There is so much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.*

—Hebrews 5: 11-14 (NLT)

*Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens."*

—Mark 4: 26-28 (NLT)

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.*

—Galatians 5:22 (NLT)

## **The Kingdom of God is both now and later.**

### **Now:**

*Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches and birds can make nests in its shade."*

—Mark 4: 30-32

### **Judgment:**

*And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.*

—Mark 4:29 (NLT)

### **Later:**

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared... Look, God's home is now among his people!...He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.*

—Revelation 21:1-4 (NLT)

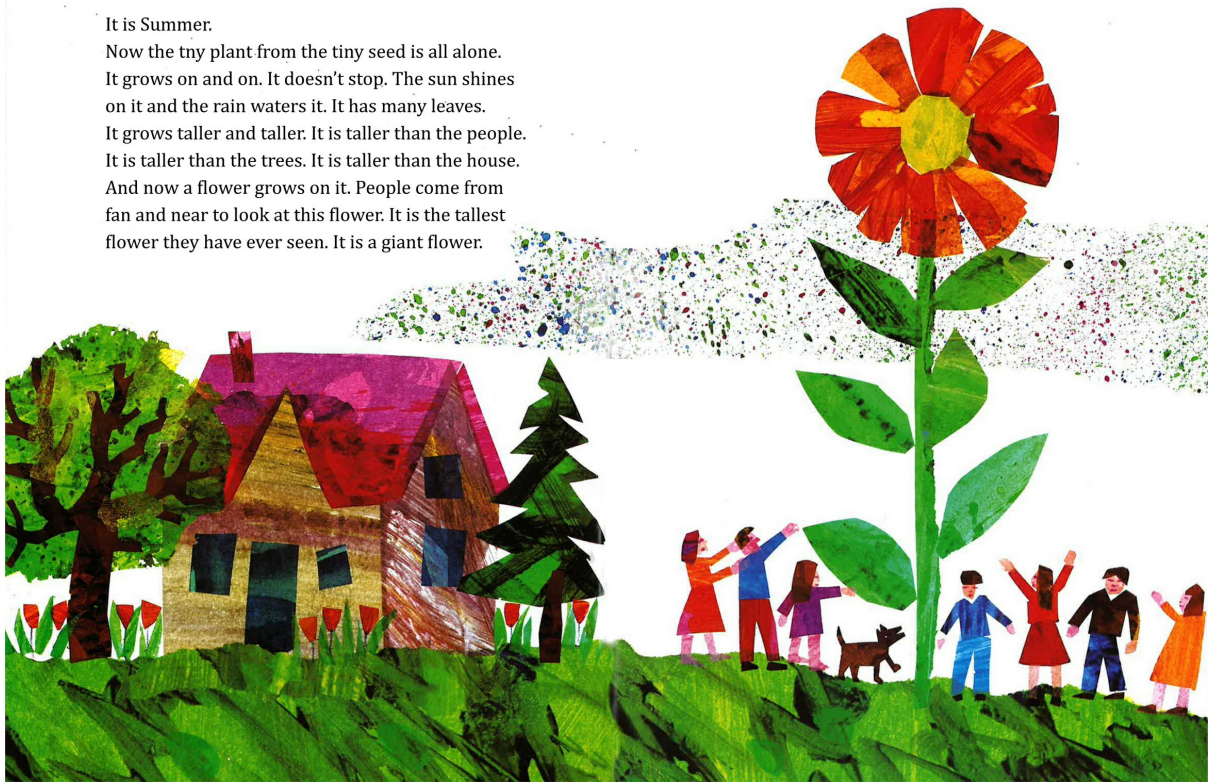


**In God's hands, tiny things grow immeasurably.**

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

—Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

It is Summer.  
Now the tiny plant from the tiny seed is all alone.  
It grows on and on. It doesn't stop. The sun shines  
on it and the rain waters it. It has many leaves.  
It grows taller and taller. It is taller than the people.  
It is taller than the trees. It is taller than the house.  
And now a flower grows on it. People come from  
far and near to look at this flower. It is the tallest  
flower they have ever seen. It is a giant flower.



*The Tiny Seed, by Eric Carle*

**Next Week: Back to School Weekend**