

Light, Seed, and the Kingdom

²¹ And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? ²² For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." ²⁴ And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. ²⁵ For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

²⁶ And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰ And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

- **Mark 4:21-34** (ESV)

Context: The Parable of the Soils and parables *in general* ...

Jesus had just quoted Isaiah 6:9-10 after saying:

¹¹ "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, ¹² so that " *they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.* "

Parables were for both _____ and _____.

How?

The disciples must be wondering ...

So, we understand the following parables/analogy as a _____ of the theme Jesus began earlier.

The following three analogies describe the _____, the _____, and the _____ of the ministry of the Gospel.

Cause – The **Lamp**

Why do we _____ what we _____? Because Jesus _____ who He _____!

He is fulfillment of _____: Isaiah 42:1-7

He _____ prophetically: Mark 4:22

This is why we have _____ through _____!

He _____ ominously: Mark 4:24-25

Be careful how you _____ ...

The Gospel is not _____ ...

Action – The **Farmer**

Because Jesus is the _____ who has come to deliver us from darkness and death, we _____ like a farmer sows seed, hoping for a "harvest" of new believers who will know and enjoy God forever!

Remembering that the Parable of the Soils is about _____ and that we cannot know what is in the heart of man, we simply “sow seed” and trust God to work beneath the surface and with the seed that is sown.

If we sow more seed, we’ll see more _____.

So, we sow seed _____, then sleep _____, knowing that we are not _____ over the seed, but God is!

Result – The **Mustard Seed**

This is a straightforward, _____ statement.

God’s Kingdom will grow _____.

Its beginnings were seemingly _____ and _____.

By the end, its growth will be _____.

My takeaways from this passage if I’m a Christian:

1. Jesus didn’t come so that He would be _____. What I say and what I do either _____ or _____ Christ. (Matthew 5:16)
2. I need to share the Good News _____, _____, and _____.
3. I am part of the grand, glorious, and _____ work of God Almighty!

My takeaways from this passage if I’m *not* a Christian:

1. I should _____ to what I am hearing.
2. I must realize that that my _____ to respond is not _____.
3. There is a _____ coming.