

Digging Deeper

Key Passage: Mark 4:26-34

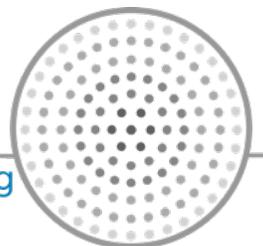
Main Idea: *If God Was* King the unseen would not be unimportant.

Background:

In Mark 4:26-34, Jesus tells a series of parables about the kingdom of God. The Jewish audience was expecting the kingdom to come suddenly and powerfully. Jesus begins to show us that the kingdom is going to grow gradually. It is currently available to those who repent and believe the good news. But the kingdom is also not yet. The fullness of God's kingdom will arrive on Jesus' second coming. So what does kingdom-living look like now? This is the focus of Jesus' parables in Mark 4:26-34.

Discussion:

1. Describe a time in your life when the unseen felt unimportant. Why do you think this is such a struggle for many people?
2. Take a moment and read Mark 4:26-34 again. How was Jesus' teaching on the kingdom different than what the Jewish people were expecting?
3. In what ways is the kingdom of God different than the kingdoms of the world?
4. On Saturday we discussed how a right understanding of the kingdom of God can give us confidence over despair. We tend to look for quick results. The promise found in Mark 4:26-29 is that God is going to accomplish His purposes. In what area of your life do you need this promise right now?



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5. What events in your life have enabled you to rest in God's approval more than people's approval?
6. Take a moment and read Philippians 1:12-14. How did Paul perceive what we might consider setback or failure? Why do we struggle to have the same attitude?

Application:

If God Was King among us, then the unseen would not be unimportant. When we don't see results, or when we encounter obstacles, it is easy to get discouraged and want to quit. Take a minute and read Galatians 6:9.

- Where are you most "weary" right now? Take some time and talk to God about it. Ask Him to reveal what is "beneath" your weariness. Is it pride? Is it selfishness? Is it an unwillingness to persevere when it is hard? Open your heart to Him and ask Him to give you strength, wisdom, and faith to keep pressing on.

