



Mark 4:26-32, *And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."*

And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 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."

- ✳ **The Kingdom of God** | The entire realm of God's authority and redemptive plan - His kingdom is in the hearts of His people, and one day will be established in its fullness as both a physical and eternal kingdom.
- ✳ **Seed** | Jesus has already explained what He means by "seed" when He taught the Parable of the Sower earlier in Mark 4. He says that the sower plants the word - the word of the gospel and the message concerning Christ.

1. THE SEED SEEMS

Mark 4:26, *"And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground."*

Mark 4:30, *"And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth..."*

- ✳ Jesus is not what people were expecting when they thought of Messiah - "isn't this the carpenter's son?" or "does anything good come from Nazareth?"
- ✳ Jesus is certainly not establishing the kind of kingdom the people were expecting either.
- ✳ Human perspective looks at Jesus as insignificant and weak - looks at the cross as foolishness.
- ✳ 1 Corinthians 1:18, the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing...

Mark 4:27, *"He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how."*

- ✳ **He knows not how** | In Greek the emphasis is on how. How?...he has no idea.
- ✳ The seed that seems unremarkable on the surface actually has a mysterious ability to come to life and thrive.

2. THE SEED IS

Mark 4:28-29, *“The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”*

Mark 4:31-32, *“It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 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.”*

- ✳ **The earth produces by itself** | “By itself” is one word in Greek, and it is how we get the English word “automatically”. It is only used one other time in the NT: Acts 12:10.
- ✳ **The smallest seed** | Not the smallest seed in the world, but the smallest seed that was planted in the fields around Israel at that time.
- ✳ **The birds of the air can make nests in its shade** | See Ezekiel 17. The birds of the air are the peoples from every nation who come and find shelter and rest under the branches of His kingdom.

1 Corinthians 1:18, *“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

1 Corinthians 1:22-24, *“For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”*

1 Corinthians 2:1-5, *“And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.”*

3. BEING FARMERS

THE FARMER NEEDS TO PLANT

Romans 10:13-14, *“Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?”*

- ✳ **Know His Story:** Get to know the gospel story and fall more in love with what He’s done for you.
- ✳ **Know Your Story:** Know your story of how Jesus saved you, and get to know the daily stories of what Jesus continues to do in your life.
- ✳ **Be Ready to Share:** Make opportunities with each other (in Grow Groups, Bible Studies, meeting someone for coffee, etc.) and share with each other how Jesus saved you and how the Lord has been treating you.

THE FARMER NEEDS TO PRAY

1 Corinthians 2:13-14, *“This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.”*