

Mark: The Good News of the Son of God

The Kingdom Revealed (and concealed) Sunday: 02/04/24 – Lenard Tavernelli – Mark 4:1-34

“Hear and heed the gospel with repentant-faith and confidently proclaim the gospel because the kingdom will certainly triumph.”

Overview

In this week’s passage we focused on the parables of Mark chapter 4. There are two items of note as we think on this week’s message. The first item is that we are to read these parables as a group, while they each have meaning they are meant to be read together. These parables answered the question of why everyone was not responding to the same way to the Gospel. The second items to consider is a proper definition of a parable. Parables are more than just short stories; they are a communication tool that compares two things. Parables leverage realism and symbolism to show that comparison in a way to teach a lesson and most importantly cause a response from the listener. Pastor Lenard gave us a warning to not over interpret a parable beyond its intended use.

Briefly review the four parables and their message.

Outline

1. The four soils: Jesus’ call to respond to the gospel of the kingdom (v1-20): *Hebrews 1:1-2*
 - a. Different responses to the gospel (v1-9, 13-20)
 - b. Dual purposes of the parables (v10-12): *Ephesians 2:2-3*
2. The lamp and measure: You are responsible for your response to the kingdom (v21-25)
3. The growing seed: God causes the growth of the kingdom. (v26-29): *Daniel 2:44-45*
4. The mustard seed: Jesus guarantees the triumph of the kingdom. (30-34)

Discussion Questions

1. In the parable of the lamp and the measure we see our responsibility in our response to the kingdom. Pastor Lenard asked the question, have you ever turned a deaf ear to God; meaning have you known what God wanted from you but you justified or talked your way out of it?
 - a. Can you share a time when you turned a deaf ear to God?
2. In the parable of the growing seed, we saw the God causes the growth of his kingdom. Pastor Lenard brought out the various political ideologies of our day and how they all promise a positive future (they claim a redemptive quality).
 - a. How did the disciples and the crowd think God’s kingdom would come? How did the leaders of that day try to grow the community of faith?
 - b. With our polarized political culture what kind of false promises do we receive from the world?
 - c. How is the growth and triumph of Christ’s Kingdom different?
3. As Jesus explained the purpose of parables, we saw a component of concealment of the meaning for unbelievers. What does verse 4:12 mean? How does 4:12 display God’s sovereignty?
4. God does not need us to grow his Kingdom but he delights to use us to that end. Pastor Lenard asked us how are we responding to the message of the Kingdom; what practical steps can you take this week to be a seed sower?
5. Was there anything else that stood out to you in the sermon?

“Jesus didn’t call us to be soil testers, he called us to be seed sowers.”