

# Week 15: Kingdom Parables

# SERVANT KING

A STUDY OF MARK'S GOSPEL

## Mark 4:26-34

U65

THE MESSIAH:

PREPARE THE WAY FOR

THE LORDS COMING!

AND YOU





26 “The kingdom of God is like this,” he said.  
“A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 He  
sleeps and rises night and day; the seed  
sprouts and grows, although he doesn’t  
know how. 28 The soil produces a crop by  
itself—first the blade, then the head, and  
then the full grain on the head. 29 As soon  
as the crop is ready, he sends for the sickle,  
because the harvest has come.”

30 And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use to describe it? 31 It's like a mustard seed that, when sown upon the soil, is the smallest of all the seeds on the ground. 32 And when sown, it comes up and grows taller than all the garden plants, and produces large branches, so that the birds of the sky can nest in its shade."



33 He was speaking the word to them with many parables like these, as they were able to understand. 34 He did not speak to them without a parable. Privately, however, he explained everything to his own disciples.

- Mark 4:26-34

# CONTEXT DETERMINES MEANING



# Mark 4 Chiasm

- A. Narrative introduction (4:1–2)
- B. Seed parable (4:3–9)
- C. General statement about hiddenness (4:10–12)
- D. Interpretation of the first parable (4:13–20)
- C'. Parables about hiddenness (4:21–25)
- B'. Seed parables (4:26–32)
- A'. Narrative conclusion (4:33–34)

# Parable

An earthly story with  
a heavenly meaning



Parables are the means of making the kingdom authentically known. They require a flexible mind and an open heart to stretch around such an enormous concept as the kingdom of God, which comes with no objective proofs. — Dr. David Garland



26 “The kingdom of God is like this,” he said.  
“A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 He  
sleeps and rises night and day; the seed  
sprouts and grows, although he doesn’t  
know how. 28 The soil produces a crop by  
itself—first the blade, then the head, and  
then the full grain on the head. 29 As soon  
as the crop is ready, he sends for the sickle,  
because the harvest has come.”

30 And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use to describe it? 31 It's like a mustard seed that, when sown upon the soil, is the smallest of all the seeds on the ground. 32 And when sown, it comes up and grows taller than all the garden plants, and produces large branches, so that the birds of the sky can nest in its shade."



33 He was speaking the word to them with many parables like these, as they were able to understand. 34 He did not speak to them without a parable. Privately, however, he explained everything to his own disciples.

- Mark 4:26-34

# NEXT STEPS