

Jesus Shows Us Kingdom Methods in Parables

October 24, 2021

Pastor Mark Turner

Mark 4:21-34

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Review:

- Mark has shown us confrontations between Jesus and the other kingdoms
- We have seen many responses to Jesus' ministry... why?
- The Word of God is the key to the Kingdom

God's Great Servants Sometimes Have Doubts

- Do God's ways sometimes confuse you?
- Do you ever struggle with doubts that God is working?
- Does your ministry ever seem futile?
- Bible is brutally honest about doubts of God's great servants
- **Elijah**^{1K18}- great triumph over 450 prophets of Baal then doubt and fear when threats came^{1K19:4-5,14}
- **Moses**^{Num11}-led Israel out of bondage to Mt.Sinai. God provided in wilderness with manna. But God's people complained^{Num11:5}, Moses overcome w/doubt^{Num11:10-15}
- Jesus tells 3 parables to answer doubts of His followers

A Lamp Under A Basket 21-25

- Jesus is the light - the Word become flesh^{Jn1:14}
- Jesus is just inaugurating the kingdom, cross will come and He will send the Spirit to guide disciples^{Jn16:12-14} to build
- We are called to pay attention to the Word & not squander Christ's work²⁴⁻²⁵. Christ provides all we need^{2Pet1:3-8}.
- Faith in Christ is an active faith - live with faith in Gospel!

The Parable of the Growing Seed 26-29

- A parable about 'knowing your place' in God's plan
- Kingdom is spread by the seed - but God makes it grow!
- We're called to sow Word & pray^{Eph6:18-20} leave results to God!
- Let us focus on the means of grace: preaching the Word, celebrating the sacraments and prayer!
- WLC 154: What are the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation? A:The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to his church the benefits of his mediation, are all his ordinances; especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for their salvation.
- So remember your place in God's Kingdom: be a sower!

The Parable of the Mustard Seed 30-32

- Disciples likely struggled with smallness of ministry
- When teaching got hard - people abandoned^{Jn6:66}
- God will build His kingdom from small things
- Remember end result - every knee shall bow^{Phil2:10-11}
- Don't be discouraged by a little seed of faith, sow the Word!

Lessons Applied 33-34

- Is your small work worth it? YES! Sow the Word, trust God!
- Have a big faith in a Big God and the Good News of the Gospel. Have Faith; Sow the Word & Pray^{Eph6:18-20} knowing God promises a good result^{Heb 11:6;Rm8:28-30}

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