

Date: May 24, 2026

Series: Mark: The Sovereign, Suffering Servant

Title: God's Work in the Individual and in the World

Text: Mark 4:26-34



HARBOUR
SHORES

C H U R C H



INTRO: We're deep in the season of banal commencement speeches—drenched with “*Be true to Yourself!*”, “*Change the world!*”, “*Follow your heart!*”, and “*What this world needs most, is you to be you!*” self-actualization tripe casting every graduate as the main character of their one story.

Such orators attempt to impart meaning and purpose to the listeners, failing to see God has already created everyone with an ultimate purpose, which Jesus shares in the two kingdom parables.

Important: A parable is NOT an allegory.

Parables have a single spiritual message (re: God, His kingdom, salvation, etc.)

with either a positive, and/or negative response to it.

The kingdom of God vs. the kingdom of darkness.

1. **God's Kingdom has** Animating Power (Mark 4:26-28a) Jn. 3:7-8, 1 Cor. 3:4-7

the seed sprouts and grows;...

he knows not how.

The earth produces...

by itself, Greek = automatē

2. **God's Kingdom is a** Divine Process (Mark 4:28b-29) Isaiah 55:6-11

...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.*

3. God's Kingdom is Prolific (Mark 4:30-32) Ez. 47:1-6, 1 Jn. 2:19-20, Jn. 10:28-30, Phil. 1:6

*a grain of mustard seed,
is the smallest of all seeds on the earth...*

it grows up and becomes larger than all the other garden plants

4. God's Kingdom is our Privilege and Purpose (Mark 4:33-34)
Acts 1:1-8, 2:1-13, 37-41, 5:27-39

He spoke the word to them,...

as they were able to hear it...

Q? Are you *able to hear* the gospel truth?
What actions are you taking with what you hear?

Q? Do your choices reflect a life lived for God's kingdom or your own?
(re: how you spend your money, use of social media, your relationships, etc.)

Q? What steps can you take to walk more by grace and in the Spirit? As you look back on your life, can you identify genuine transformation, and a pattern growing in holiness?

Q? What specific action is the Holy Spirit leading you to take so the kingdom of God grows more where He has you planted... at work, your neighborhood, and beyond?

Q? When talking with non-Christians, how might you move the conversation to the things of God, their spiritual journey, their purpose, their life's passion, etc.?

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