



Message Discussion Guide Week of April 14, 2024

Message: Walking the Talk, Part 2: Harvest of the Heart

Key Scriptures: [Mark 4:21-34](#)

Preacher: Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

Jesus' primary aim was to recruit people to become citizens of the Kingdom of God, pledging their allegiance to God's Kingdom.

- The Kingdom of God is a sphere of influence, not bound by geography. It is anytime and anyplace when we think, act, and speak in alignment with God's will.
- Jesus taught about the Kingdom in parables. In the parable of the sower, he taught that we need to prepare our hearts to receive the good news of the Kingdom.

In Mark 4, Jesus uses 4 short parables to reveal four fundamental truths about the Kingdom of God:

1. God's kingdom is not a secret meant to be hidden.
2. The more you invest, the more you receive.
3. God will grow the Kingdom...and there is nothing we can do to stop it.
4. From small beginnings, God does great things.

In light of these four truths, Jesus wants us to live at the end of the story. No matter what the present looks like (even if it looks bleak), He wants us to live in light of the truth that God's Kingdom will come and His will will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) What is the Kingdom of God? Why does it hold such a prominent place in Jesus' teachings?
- 2.) [Read Mark 4:21-34](#)
 - a. What common themes do you see running through these four parables?
 - b. What do you hear in these parables that inspires you? Challenges you? Confuses you?
 - c. Why do you think Jesus shared these parables early in his ministry?
- 3.) What does it mean to let the light of the Kingdom shine? Why is it so difficult for us to share our faith with others? What are some practical ways we can "shine the light?"

- 4.) Are you investing in God's Kingdom? What should we be doing in our lives in order to invest in God's Kingdom? What does it mean that we will receive more than we invested? What exactly do we receive?
- 5.) Why is it so important to remember that the Kingdom of God is God's work, not our work? If God grows the Kingdom, what role are we supposed to play?
- 6.) In your experience, when have you seen seemingly small or insignificant things that God has used to bring forth great things?
- 7.) What is your primary takeaway from this message?