

Mark 4:26-34
Jesus Defines The Nature Of His Kingdom

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Outline: Mark 4:26-34

Vss. 26-29 Parable of The Seed
Vss. 26-28 The Kingdom grows by God's power
Vs. 29 Harvest comes = Joel 3:13

Vss. 30-32 Parable of The Mustard Seed
Vss. 30-31 The Kingdom grows from small to big
Vs. 32 Large tree for the birds = Ezekiel 17:23

Vss. 33-34 Conclusion

Misconceptions About The Kingdom

➤ **In Jesus' Day**
The Kingdom comes all at once (Luke 24:21)
The Kingdom entails only a warrior Messiah!

➤ **In Our Day**
Mankind is king
The kingdom is here now and is improving
You become a citizen by works

God's Word Creates The Kingdom

Mark 4:26-28 And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows—how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head."

False Claims On How The Kingdom Is Built

"We aid the Spirit in the work of the Kingdom by making all things better in our own time and place...When we employ creativity to make this world better, we participate with God in the re-creation of the world" (Doug Pagitt, *Church Re-imagined*, 185).

God's Word Is The Creative Seed

Isaiah 55:11 So will **My word** be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

Salvation And Judgment At The Harvest

Mark 4:29 "But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Joel 3:12-13 Let the nations be aroused and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; the vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.

The Kingdom's Magnificent Growth

Mark 4:30-32 And He said, "How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil, yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that the birds of the air can nest under its shade."

The Kingdom's Magnificent Growth

Ezekiel 17:22-23 Thus says the Lord God, "I will also take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and set it out; I will pluck from the topmost of its young twigs a **tender one** and I will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it, that it may bring forth boughs and bear fruit and become a stately cedar. And birds of every kind will nest under it; they will nest in the shade of its branches.

Jesus Taught Many Other Parables

Mark 4:33-34 With many such parables He was speaking the word to them, so far as they were able to hear it; and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples.

The Change In "Kingdom Thinking"

	<u>Biblical</u>	<u>Emergent</u>
Truth:	Attainable	Unattainable
The Future:	Judgment	Universal bliss
The Kingdom:	Revealed	Discovered

"We want to join the kingdom of God wherever we find it" (Doug Pagitt).

Summary

What is The Kingdom of God?

1. Who is the King?
2. Where is the kingdom?
3. When does the kingdom come?
4. How does one become a citizen?

Jesus Is The King

2 Samuel 7:12-13 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of **his kingdom** forever."

2 Samuel 7:19 ESV And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord GOD!

Where Is The Kingdom?

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

Matthew 6:9-10 "Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."

Where Is The Kingdom?

Revelation 5:10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon **the earth**."

Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

When Is The Kingdom Coming?
Matthew 24:37-39 For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be."
Hebrews 11:7a By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark...

How Do We Become Citizens?
Mark 1:14-15 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe in the gospel.**"

Our Mission Defined By Christ
Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
