

Jesus And The Mystery Of Spiritual Growth

Mark 4:21-34

This study guide is intended to be used for personal study and within your community group to facilitate discussion.

Read Mark 4:21-34

After reading the Parable of the Sower, a mistake could be made in thinking that Christianity is a type of secret society who possesses some elite information not to be made known. But Jesus confronts this understanding in this first paragraph. The Kingdom of God is not a secret to remain hidden, but will one day be fully revealed to all. Because of this, it is important that we take care in how we listen. It is a kind of listening that will bear fruit and transform us.

(1) What is the great assurance found in vss 21-25?

(2) Likewise, what is the warning found in vss 21-25?

In verses 26-29, Jesus describes spiritual growth and the Kingdom of God as a farmer who scatters seed, then goes about his life. Yet, as the farmer sleeps and rises, the seed is taking root and sprouting. Though it the farmer doesn't quite understand how the growth happens precisely, the seed grows and bears fruit.

(3) What does this parable speak to you about spiritual growth?

(4) What examples can you give of seemingly painfully slow or mundane spiritual growth in your life?

(5) What verse(s) of Scripture come to mind when you think about how God's Word has taken root in your heart and changed you?

The final parable (vss 30-32) speaks of a seemingly insignificant and small seed that eventually explodes, producing a tree that is larger than the others in the garden.

(6) What does this final parable tell us about Jesus and His people?

(7) How does this parable relate to us trusting in the power of the Gospel in the context of evangelism?