

MARK 3 — THE KINGDOM IN PARABLES

Why did Jesus speak in parables?

1 - _____

Information is good, but stories lock truth into our brains.

2 - _____

They give spiritual truth that hits harder than raw facts.

3 - _____

To those seeking God, they reveal; to those hardened or resistant, they remain a mystery.

The Four Parables of the Kingdom (Mark 4)

1. The Sower: Not everyone who hears receives. The seed is the same, but the soil (the heart) differs:

- The Path: Snatched away by the enemy or self-sufficiency.
- Rocky Ground: Emotional response with no root; withers under pressure.
- Thorny Ground: Choked by competing desires and a "genie Jesus" mentality.
- Good Ground: Hears, receives, embraces, and produces fruit.

2. The Light: The Kingdom is meant to be effective energy. If you have the Word in you, it must come out. We often treat faith as "potential energy," but the Gospel is meant to be put on a lampstand. Use what God has given you.

3. The Growing Seed: Faith is an organic development. The Kingdom grows slowly and steadily.

- Pine Faith: Grows fast, cheap, and soft.
- Oak Faith: Grows slowly over generations; hard, solid, and lasting.
- Are you content with "fast and cheap," or do you desire a faith that stands the test of time?

4. The Mustard Seed: Small beginnings, great effects. The Kingdom started with a few hundred and now covers billions. Your faith should "ring out" (1 Thess. 1:8) into your workplace, school, and home.

JESUS: Promised and Powerful Messiah

NOTES _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why do you think we often struggle to truly listen to God's word versus just hearing it as background noise?
- Looking at the Parable of the Sower, which of the four "soils" (the path, rocky ground, thorns, or good soil) most accurately describes where your heart has been this past week? What specific "thorns" or distractions are currently competing for your attention?
- What is one practical way you can move your faith from potential to effective in your workplace or neighborhood this week?
- How does the image of a slow-growing Oak tree change your perspective on seasons where you feel like your spiritual growth has stalled or is moving too slowly?
- If Christ is the "key" that unlocks the meaning of the parables, how has your relationship with Him changed the way you read the Bible compared to when you first started? How do you see the Holy Spirit providing "illumination" in your life today?

NEED PRAYER

If you need prayer for anything, email Pray@jchurch.life, or fill out a connect card so we can be praying with and for you!

NEW BELIEVER

Have you accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior? We are so excited for you and your new journey. Please fill out a connect card so we can follow up with you!

FIRST TIME GUESTS

If this is your first time here, thank you for joining us today! Stop by the Welcome Booth for a Guest Bag (there's a coffee gift card too).

