

Comparing the Kingdom of God Mark. 4:21-34

God's kingdom may appear hidden, but it will become fully visible. 21-25

- ❖ Jesus divides people into insiders and outsiders, 3:32-35, 4:11, 12, 33, 34; and the *mystery of the God's kingdom* (4:11) is clarified for insiders only.
- ❖ *Hearing* (13x in 4:1-34) well is crucial since parables are like riddles. Lazy listeners lose their hearing, Isa. 6:9, 10. See Lk. 6:38, 19:25, 26.
- ❖ The lamp = the kingdom and Jesus' role in it that is hidden till later.

God's kingdom may appear confusing, but it will press on. 26-29

- ❖ This ag. parable is unique to Mark. It describes sowing, growing, and harvesting. See Dan. 2:34, 44 to see why hearing this would be tough.
- ❖ What is most noteworthy about this brief parable? The cluelessness!

God's kingdom may appear small, but it will become huge. 30-34

- ❖ The mustard seed is famous for being the smallest ag. seed, yet it its growth eventually dwarfs all the other garden plants. This hidden growth concept is likened to leaven in Matt. 13:33.
- ❖ The kingdom will be HUGE for all to see one day, Rev. 11:15-17, 21.

What should an awareness of this growing kingdom mean for us?



