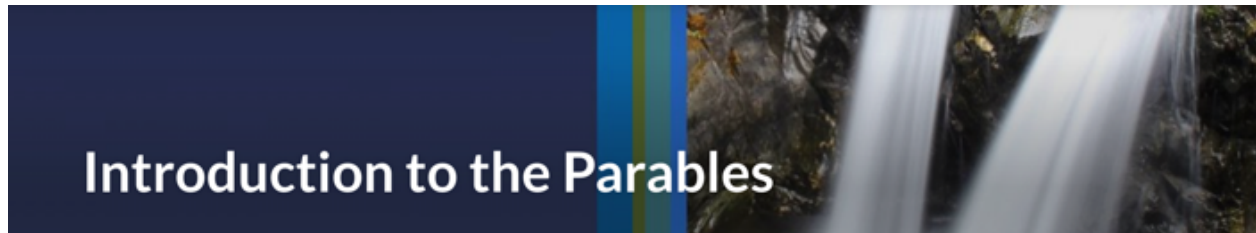


080518 Growth Group Study



Growth Group Page Only

1. Discussion around most recent sermon:

a. Date: 08/05/18

b. Series: Parables

c. Title: "How Does the Kingdom Grow?"

d. Text (scripture from today's sermon):

- Mark 4:26-34

d. Preacher: Brian Morgan

f. Scripture Reading:

- Isaiah 55:6-13 (ESV):

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

g. Specific questions from today's sermon:

1. Brian opened his sermon by adding to Shawn's points on "why Jesus taught in parables". Have a group discussion around the dual function they serve:

- They harden those who have already hardened their hearts.

- They reveal the mystery of the kingdom to those on the inside.

2. What familiar imagery was Jesus alluding to in order to draw his hearers into this parable?

(See Isaiah 55:10-13)

3. What did Brian say is “unusual/extraordinary” in this parable?

4. Just as the earth produces the grain “by itself” without the man, so also the readiness of the harvest is determined by the readiness of the grain (not the decision of the man). What is the man’s role in this?

5. How should this parable make us feel *Unsettled*?

(Are we able to sleep knowing that God’s word will grow?)

6. What is this parable calling *you* to do?

(In Brian’s words, “How do we cultivate spiritual life?”)

g. Reference Text/Books:

- Psalm 127:2
- Isaiah 55:6-13 (scripture reading)
- Psalm 98:1-3 (Call to Worship)
- Leviticus 25:3-7
- James 5:7-8
- Joel 3:9, 13
- 1Peter 1:23, 2:2
- Colossians 1:6