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"The Growth of the Kingdom"

Mark 4:26-29

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Background

As we continue learning from Jesus about the Kingdom of God, we turn our attention to the Parable of the Growing Seed. How does the seed of God's Kingdom come to fruition? Who gives the growth? And why does it matter? In a world that upholds influence and control as important life values, how does the nature of God's Kingdom free us to holy surrender and utmost trust? Join us as we explore these questions and more in the fourth installment of "The Way of the Kingdom"!

Sermon Text: *Mark 4:26-29 (NIV)*

²⁶ He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday Questions:

1. Did you ever experience feeling bogged down by the daily chores without making progress in life? How did you overcome the struggle?
2. The way God's Kingdom grows is a mystery. How does it grow and how is it different from our idea that we can talk someone into changing their mind to believe?
3. Our idea, somehow to influence or manipulate the coming of the Kingdom, completely misunderstands what the Kingdom of God actually is. Explain some of the ways people in history and now have acted based on their misguided beliefs about the way this Kingdom would grow. Christian Nationalism is one of the examples.
4. We have heard other seed-related parables: the parable of the Sower, and the parable of the wheat and the weeds. They emphasized different aspects of the Kingdom of God: the conditions of the people receiving the word of His Kingdom, the character of the Sower himself, and even the attitudes of the workers as they live with the reality of bad weeds growing in the midst of good wheat. In today's parable, the seeds are grown by God. Can you share the most important aspects which you learned from these parables?
5. We see so many weeds in the field, we see so much evil and corruption and suffering around us. But as we daily struggle to obey, to love our neighbors, to fight against darkness, can our hearts be at rest? Can we trust our King? And surrender to an invisible reality that will one day be made known?