

# Sermon Discussion Questions

## “THE KINGDOM STARTS SMALL BUT ULTIMATELY TRIUMPHS OVER ALL”

**Big Idea:** Don't underestimate that which God activates! His Kingdom is like the growth of a small seed, often unrecognizable at first, yet powerfully advancing and ultimately unstoppable.

## Discuss

There are several parables recorded in the gospels where Jesus gives vivid illustrations of what the kingdom of God is like. The first parable in this passage is recorded only in Mark. The parable of the mustard seed appears here in Mark and in Matthew 13:31-32 and Luke 13:18-19.

- 1) As we have in other weeks, consider the audience for these parables.
  - What were the Jews experiencing when Jesus was on earth?
  - What kind of Messiah had they longed for and anticipated? See Isaiah 9:6-7 (a passage referred to at Christmas) and consider the ways that prophecies like this could have been interpreted by Jews.
  - When Jesus was teaching his disciples, what did his kingdom at that point look like to those around him?
- 2) When God created the world, he had only to speak and whatever he said was done (see Genesis 1:3-26). We can assume, therefore, that God could have chosen to advance his kingdom on earth differently, without having a Savior who was born in a barn, who lived with a rag-tag bunch of followers and was opposed by both the religious authorities and the occupying forces of Rome.
  - Can you think of ways in which kingdom growth that can be imperceptible, though ultimately unstoppable, gives *more* glory to God than one immediate, grand-scale victory? See verses 27 and 28 and look at Judges 7:2-3 (or even the whole of Judges 7, if time) as you consider your answer.
- 3) There are two pictures of ultimate triumph here: the full harvest of ripened grain in the first parable, and in the second parable, the large shading tree in which the birds of the air can make their nests.
  - What about the gospel appears foolish to the world, even as we witness its amazing fruit? See 2 Cor. 4:7-10 and 1 Cor. 1:18-25.
  - What on this earth are we likely to put our trust and faith in, rather than trusting in God and the sure growth and ultimate triumph of his kingdom? Give examples from your own life and from history.



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

DATE: November 19, 2017

SPEAKER: Joe/Brian

SERIES: The Gospel of Mark

PASSAGE: Mark 4:26-34

## Pray

Praise God for the certain triumph of his kingdom.

Confess the times that you have doubted the sure growth of God's kingdom and have instead placed your hope and faith in kingdoms of this world.

During this week of our national celebration of Thanksgiving, take time to remember and give thanks for all the ways in which God has blessed you.

Pray that God will increase your faith in him as you watch and wait for the return of Jesus and the ushering in of the new heaven and new earth.

**PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS**  
Chattanooga Youth Network

**PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS**  
Friends of the Good Samaritan in  
India