



SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey

THE UNSTOPPABLE SEED OF GOD

MARK 4:30-32

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Though few may have seen the connection between the parable of the mustard seed and the plan of God, as He sent Jesus to the womb of Mary, there is indeed a powerful one.

Mark 4:30-32

30 And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." ESV

In this parable, Jesus wanted it to be known that though the kingdom of God's beginnings on earth was so small as to be barely noticed and nearly insignificant, it grows over time and will eventually cover the whole world.

This is the story of Jesus, the son of God from His conception in the womb of a young virgin from the humble village of Nazareth.

The people of His day did not really grasp what God was up to in the world, but it is quite certain that He was up to something really big.

To unfold this mystery, Jesus shared a parable to give us a clue on how the kingdom of God begins in insignificance and will one day achieve worldwide dominance.

ITS INSIGNIFICANCE

The Lord had a choice of using any growing thing in Israel or the wider Middle East to convey to His disciples the potential, the process, and the power of the rule of God that He planned for the earth.

Mark 4:30-31

30 And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth,"

Notice that the kingdom is compared, not to many seeds, but to only one.



Not only is there one seed, but also it is the smallest of them all. There are those who are tripped up by this description of it as the smallest of all seeds. The Greek word for "smallest" is "*microteron*." According to linguists it is more accurately translated "least" or "less than." This being so, Jesus is saying that the mustard seed is less significant than all others. The idea of a mustard seed was used proverbially to refer to the smallest or least of things.

ITS DOMINANCE

Mark 4:32

"Yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Interesting facts about mustard trees:

- Considered a weed
- Can grow 8-10 feet tall
- Nearly impossible to cut down
- Branches can be as thick as a man's arm
- When cut down it regrows from its roots
- Will take over wherever it grows
- Nearly impossible to get rid of it

When hearing the parable, we should think of anything that begins in the very smallest of ways but becomes impressive over time. This is the amazing way of the kingdom.

Christianity today reaches around the globe, with some estimating that there are over 2,500,000,000 followers. This explosion in growth came about because a rabbi from a tiny village called Nazareth (nearly two thousand years ago and eight time zones away) started out in ministry with twelve unlikely men. He has shaken up the whole world. The reach of the gospel today is overwhelming, spreading through word of mouth and every form of media.

Conclusion

Once the kingdom of God gets a foothold in your life, be prepared for it to take over your world in a most impressive and life-changing way.