

Week of Feb 24, 2019 — Focus: Mark 4:21-34

Introduction/Ice-breaker

Pastor Jonathan opened with a story about a power outage and not realizing how much they depended upon / appreciated electricity until it was out. What is an example of something in your own life that you didn't appreciate as much until it was gone?

What place does Scripture have in your life? How would you describe your “relationship” with God’s word?

Scripture/Sermon Discussion

Re-read the three parables from in focus this week—a lamp under a basket (4:21-25), a growing seed (4:26-29), and the mustard seed (4:30-34).

- How would you describe the *main point* of each one?
- What do they illustrate about the kingdom of God?

The Lamp / Paying Attention (4:21-25)

What was Jesus point about “measures” used in 4:24?

How would you compare your level of commitment and discipline to God’s word *in comparison* to other hobbies / life skills?

- How much *time* do you spend with it?
- How much do you *talk* about it?
- How much do you *think* about it?
- What is your *level of effort / energy* put into it?
- If you have children at home, what example do they see??

Choose some of the following passages and read them as a group. How does each one relate to attentiveness (paying attention) to God? Do any stand out for *you*? Why?

- Num 15:40
- Deut 4:1, 18:15
- Josh 1:8
- 1 Sam 15:22

- Ps 1:2, 81:13
- Isa 55:2-3
- Matt 17:5
- John 10:27

The Growing Seed (4:26-29)

Re-read Mark 4:26-29. What is *our* role and what is *God's* role in people joining God's kingdom? How does Ephesians 2:1-10 speak into this?

- Should we use logic and reason when sharing our faith? Why or why not?

What are practical examples of “scattering the seed” of the gospel in our world today?

What are practical examples of reaping the “harvest” in our world today?

The Mustard Seed (4:30-32)

How is the gospel like a mustard seed?

How is Jesus' own ministry to his disciples like a mustard seed?

The last parable illustrated that the growth of God's kingdom among people is mysterious and driven by God. This parable shows the unexpected power and results of that growth. As you share the gospel with others, how much do you acknowledge the mystery and depend upon God's power as you do?

Prayer

- Memorize Psalm 119:105 as a group (it's possible and worth it!) and then thank God for revealing his word to us
- As Pastor Jonathan preached about our attentiveness to God's word, “It's not always easy, but it's what we're called to do.”
 - Confess (acknowledge your agreement) to God that it takes effort, but it's worth it.
 - Pray for an increased attentiveness and commitment to God's word.
- Pray for an awareness of where God is growing his kingdom and the power/privilege to participate in it