

Seed Thoughts

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Mark 4.

B. Jesus spoke in parables to awaken the curiosity of His listeners.

II. Christian truth is so different that it can only be given as a person can bear it.

III. How the kingdom comes: the parable of the sewer.

A. The parable of the sewer is crucial to explaining all the parables.

B. Jesus treats the parable allegorically and says that this is how all the parables must be understood.

C. The kingdom of God is sown.

D. The soils picture what one's heart is like now.

1. The calloused heart is the beaten down pathway.

2. The impulsive heart is the one that responds but the one that responds to everything.

3. The over involved heart is choked by worries and restlessness.

4. One must watch his heart in response to the Word.

E. The kingdom grows by waiting.

1. It involves teaching.

2. Then there is an inevitable process that allows God to work.

IV. How the kingdom increases.

A. The mustard seed is an illustration of faith because it grows when used, and it stimulates.

B. The true church is not marked by worldly power but a worthy walk, characterized by lowliness, meekness, patience, and love. (Ephesians 4)

C. God is at work just as He was then.

V. The surprising effects of the kingdom in the world.

Application questions:

1. Which of the soils do you find it easiest to identify with today? Why?

2. What program do you have in place to receive regular teaching from the Word of God? What testimony can you give with regard to how it has grown you?

3. How are you using your faith to increase the kingdom? What is something you can do this week to stretch yourself?
