**Sermon Notes**

**“The Inevitable, Unstoppable Kingdom”**

Mark 4:21–34 (NIV84)

21 He said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand? 22 For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.

*Jesus hasn’t come to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the truth, but to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” 24 “Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. 25 Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.”

*Disciples \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ others*

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.”

*Wherever the kingdom is establish, God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is at work (often \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_).*

30 Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.”

*The Kingdom of God is an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

33 With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. 34 He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

1. The grand purposes of God often start \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The kingdom is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because it’s “seed” is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! (cf. John 12:24)

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What insight from the message left the biggest impression on you? Why?
2. Did the picture of middle eastern mustard seeds change how understand this parable?
3. In what ways do you “bring in a lamp to put in under a bowl”? (ie. Conceal your faith from others) Why do you do this?

4. Are you in a discipling relationship with someone right now? Why or why not? Do you agree with Jeff’s assertion that “disciples disciple others”?

5. Can you give an example of a time in your life when God was working invisibly to prepare you for something greater in the future?

6. The kingdom of God has “takeover properties.” Is this statement hopeful or concerning to you?

7. Is there something you’ve felt God calling you to that you haven’t taken action on? Why not? Have you been “despising the day of small beginnings?” What would it look like for you to take the next step?