

Parables of the seeds

Week of 16th June 2024

- What makes a good story? Share your favourite story

Read Mark 4:26-34

“...he did not speak to them (the people) except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples”. Mark 4:34. NRSV.

- Do you find Jesus’ use of parables helpful, or confusing? Why?
- Why do you think Jesus explained his parables to his disciples, but not to the people?
- How do you read, or hear, God’s word? What helps you listen carefully?
- Mk 4:26-29 extends the preceding teaching of the parable of the Sower (4:1-20).

Jesus’ followers might be wondering:
If the condition of the ground is so significant, what chance have the seeds?
What does Jesus suggest is the secret to the growth of the seeds?

- v29, what is the significance of this quotation from the book of Joel (Joel 3:13)?
- If the parable is a warning against looking down on small beginnings, how might we apply it today?
- How is the Kingdom of God like a mustard seed? v30-32.
- Who are the birds of the air (v32)? (see Ezek. 17:22-23, 31:6; Dan 4:12, 21)
- What does this parable tell us about the Kingdom of God? How might we apply this in the life of St Thomas or in the wider church?



The parable of the Mustard Seed highlights the idea that something seemingly so insignificant, can carry immense significance. Although not the smallest seed known, the mustard seed's humble beginnings lead to remarkable growth, illustrating the theme that many great things start small.

From the internet.

The parable of the mustard seed suggests the growth of the kingdom of God from tiny beginnings to worldwide size.

Howard Marshall.

