

# Moral of the Stories

When we think about the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – Mark isn't usually the first place we go. Yet Mark, listening to the eyewitness accounts of Peter, wrote a fast-paced gospel sharing the miraculous things Jesus did, including His death and Resurrection, to convince his Roman readers that Jesus is the Son of God. Let's not overlook what we can learn about our Savior in the overlooked gospel.

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## INTRODUCTION

Pastor David continued the series by explaining four parables, or stories, in Mark chapter 4 that are the secret to the Kingdom of God: 1) The parable of **the sower** 2) The parable of **a lamp on a stand** 3) The parable of **the growing seed** 4) The parable of **the mustard seed**

## STARTER QUESTION

When you look at each parable and what Jesus wanted us to know, which one can you relate to the most and why?

## INTO THE WORD

In Mark 4:26-29, it shows that God is always working in our lives whether we recognize it at the time or not. Can you think of a few examples of this in your life?

Consider how God's Word and God's Truth, when applied (Mark 4:1-9, 13-20), can work in your life to grow your faith and relationship with Jesus. How can you apply what God reveals in His Word to your life? What are a few ways we can hear God's Word and then by His grace, choose to act according to it?

In the parable from Mark 4:3-8, Jesus references that some sow their seed by the wayside, by stone, by thorns or in the ground. He explains this in a different way in the parable that follows in Mark 4:15-20 where He references the "word" or "truth". Where do you see yourself in this parable? Are you where you want to be or think you should be? If not, what are some things you can do to make God bigger in your life?

## APPLICATION

Can you think of some actions that Fairhaven Church (members/attendees) take that demonstrate that we are trying to be a replica of Jesus?

What does the idea of growing deeper spiritual roots look like to you? Pastor David discussed how the parables in Mark 4:1-34 illustrate what the Kingdom of God "is like". What does the Kingdom of God mean to you?

The parable of a lamp on a stand is given in Mark 4:21-24. What good things does your lamp reveal that show how you are trying to be a replica of Jesus? Has the lamp in your life exposed something that you needed to change?

## PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for all that You are and know that You are working in us even when we can't see it. Help us to turn away from desires and motives that lead to doubt and distractions. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit in order that we may trust in Your perfect will for our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.