

## Parables about the Kingdom

Jesus introduced people to the Kingdom of God by illustrating it with examples from everyday life. Jews prided themselves on their holiness claiming they built their entire lives around the covenant relationship with God. Had that been true, they would have easily seen the connection between spiritual truth and the processes of nature. He had to explain the parables to His disciples because they weren't any closer to God than the average Jew. Only their faith or interest in God and willingness to cooperate with Him separated them from the rest of Israel. While it hid the truth from many and revealed it to a few, illustrating it made the truth easier to understand. Instead of opinions, parables encouraged people to search the truth firsthand and gain a richer, more accurate grasp of it. Jesus used parables to tap true faith and gather the remnant foretold by prophecy, not to conceal the facts.

### 4:1-9 **Jesus tells a story about planting seed**

He compares the work of gathering the remnant to a farmer planting seed. While the seed wants to sprout wherever it is sown, different outcomes depend on the condition of the soil.

### 4:10-12 **Jesus explains why He tells parables**

He is not trying to build an audience but to separate true believers who have enrolled in the School of Christ from casual listeners.

### 4:13-20 **Jesus explains the seed story**

The 12 showed the faith, their desire to grow closer to Christ that distinguished them from the masses by asking for an explanation. He emphasizes the importance of the soil's condition, comparing it to the receptivity of the human heart.

### 4:21-25 **Jesus says use what you have**

Jesus addresses two key issues here: first — will the kingdom remain secret, hidden from many and revealed to a few? And, second — how will the seed reproduce 30, 60, or 100X? The key is faith, plus an insatiable desire for Christ. The more you want to be like Him, the more you will grow. If you satisfy yourself with anything less than complete transformation and stop growing, you will lose everything.

### 4:26-29 **Jesus tells a story about seed**

The first of two parables about growth emphasizes how the seed quietly, relentlessly bears fruit by divine power rather than human effort. It is the seed, not the soil that causes growth.

### 4:30-34 **Jesus tells a story about a mustard seed**

The second parable emphasizes the amazing results of the planted seed.

### 4:35-41 **Jesus Calms a Storm**

More than insight into nature, Jesus has power over nature (Creator of heaven and earth/dispels Beelzebub myth). He commands the storm to obey, rebuking it like the rebellious demon, in 1:25.

### 5:1-20 **A Man with Demons inside Him**

Jesus has power everywhere, over demons. The possessed man recognizes Jesus and bows down to Him, unlike the disciples whose faith failed them in the boat.

### 5:21-43 **Jesus Gives Life to a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman**

Jesus has the power of life and death. From top to bottom, people are beginning to choose Him over Judaism.

