

Mark's Wild Gospel

Week 4 – A Wild Worldview

1. Do plants tend to thrive or die under your care? Share a memorable experience you've had with growing a crop/garden (i.e. a bumper crop or a dreadful failure).
2. Read Mark 4:1-20. How would you summarise the main point of this parable? What critical details do we learn about God, His kingdom and each other?
3. Verses 14-15 tell us clearly that Jesus went about preaching the Gospel and the Kingdom of God and has now entrusted the message to us. How might this parable influence the way we think about our mission? How does this impact the way we share the Gospel?
4. Read Mark 4:21-25. How does the placement of a lamp reveal its purpose? How does this reveal Jesus' intention in telling parables? Why did Jesus emphasize having ears to hear?
5. To understand the meaning of Jesus' parables, what should we do (v.24)? What does "consider carefully what you hear" mean to you? How does Jesus' analogy encourage us to devote our attention to thinking about his words?
6. Read Mark 4:26-29. Why do you think Jesus tells this parable? What part of growing and harvesting the grain is in the farmer's control and what is not? What does this reveal about our part in growing the kingdom of God?
7. Where do you see evidence emerging of the previously hidden growth of God's kingdom in our world? In our church? In your relationships?
8. Read Mark 4:30-34. What does this teach us about God's Kingdom? How does this encourage us in difficult times?
9. Why did Jesus continue teaching in parables until the end of His earthly ministry? Why would the teachings of Jesus have seemed 'wild' for those who heard them?