

Thanksgiving 2011

# Thankful for the Power of God's Word

Mark 4:21-34

**Introduction:** At the end of Mark 4 Jesus tells three parables highlighting the power of His good news: the parable of the lamp and the measure, the parable of the mysterious seed and the parable of the mustard seed.

1. ***THE PARABLE OF THE MYSTERIOUS SEED. God's word has invisible power to transform. Mark 4:26-29***
  - A. The Scene: A farmer has prepared his soil, plants his seed, and the seed sprouts. The good news has power inherent within.
  - B. Examples: Concrete illustrations of the power of the good news.
  - C. The future: This parable forces us to consider eternal realities.
  
2. ***THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED. God's word (the gospel) will eventually penetrate the entire world. Mark 4:30-34***
  - A. The scene: Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed.
  - B. Examples: How history supports Jesus' parable.
    - First era: early church (c.a. 33-325).
    - Second era: middle ages (c.a. 500-1500).
    - Third era: Renaissance and Reformation (c.a. 1450 -1650).
    - Fourth era: Modern church.
    - Latest era: 1920 to present.
    - What do we learn from these five eras of church history?
  - C. Result: is that birds are nesting under its shade.
  
3. ***PARABLES OF THE LAMP AND THE MEASURE – Since God's word is powerful we ought to make use of it. Mark 4:21-25; 33-34***
  - A. Interpretation: We first need to identify the meaning of the lamp.
  - B. Application: Put the lamp on the lampstand. 4:21-23
  - C. One more parable: The parable of the measure.