

## **Discussion Notes**

Mark 4. 26-29 *The Mystery of the Growing Seed*

Rikk Watts, January 26, 2014

The parables of moments of decision. They push us to make up our minds about Jesus. This parable tells us about God's kingdom once we have.

### **What's Odd About This Parable:**

*There's no tending.*

- Any good farmer would tend his crops. This farmer does not. The seed grows as it will, and is later harvested.

*This is a wild seed.*

- The kingdom of God does not grow like our domesticated plants and crops. It asks in unexpected, wild ways.
- We can't (and shouldn't) try to control how the kingdom grows. As we see it spread throughout the ancient world, it went places and disrupted comforts we may not have expected.

### **The Point:**

- People in Israel think they know God works but the story shows that they are wrong. God will do what he will do, even if it means breaking apart the clean and neat boxes we build for him.
- It's God's timing, God's, God's way, and God's life.
- Do we control the kingdom, or does it control us?
- We must abandon ourselves to God's way. What you expect won't change you.
- The kingdom is wild and doesn't depend on us.

### **Questions to consider:**

Have you ever seen the kingdom act in a *wild* way? Share a time God did something unexpected in you or people around you.

How do we try and control or domesticate the kingdom?

What does it mean to "give yourself over" to God and his kingdom?

Jesus calls us to be kingdom-minded and agents of it. How do we partner with such an unruly thing?! What does that look like?

