

FOLLOW – Parable of the Mustard Seed

Mark 4:30-34

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August 24, 2025



Mark 4:30-32

Life in the Kingdom, through the gospel is one of growth. As we follow and continue to surrender to Jesus we will be transformed by his work, on the cross, through his resurrection and ongoing work in and around us.

Mark 1 - We are told the Kingdom of God is near – repent and follow Jesus.

John 1 - To all who receive Jesus and believe in him will be called children of God.

This is becoming a disciple - someone who makes that decision now finds their Identity, Purpose and Belonging in Jesus and his life, death and resurrection.

Gospel Received (Implanted)	Identity	Purpose	Belonging
Gospel Believed (Growing)	Christ's work in me	Christ's work around me	Christ's work through me
Gospel Displayed (Producing)	Faith – deeper trust in what God has done and will do	Hope – recognizing that although the world is broken we see God at work	Love – receiving it and allowing it to work through us to others without condition

Our spiritual health, growth / depth are @ risk when we live with...

- doubts - circumstances, cultural voices/narratives
- distractions - turning to other things, priorities
- defensiveness - self-justifying our choices or actions
- division - relational brokenness, avoiding vulnerability

We discover in his Kingdom there is power in the gospel - the past and ongoing work of Jesus and the Spirit in the world around us and our lives.

- strongholds are broken...
- generational hate finds healing...
- bitterness jealousy envy etc. are set aside
- character is developed, peace, joy, contentment, generosity etc. ...
- Faith, Hope and Love become ever increasing descriptors in our lives.

The decision to follow Jesus, we soon realize, is not a onetime experience or decision, but an ongoing process of surrendering to Jesus and the work both on the cross and the resurrection.

As disciples we need to learn to present our daily lives, actions, struggles to the Lord and allow the gospel to continue to work on us.

- Inviting God to continually restore and renew us, confessing our failure to trust in what he has done and says about us.
- When we are distracted or overwhelmed through our struggles and with what we see around us. Being honest with ourselves about our misplaced priorities and beliefs - re-aligning to his purposes for our life
- Taking our attitudes and feelings – identifying the lies we are believing and living out that are the root cause. Acknowledging our selfish nature and.

Mark 4:33,34 this is tough to do alone – we need each other. Which is also difficult because we get defensive and we tend to avoid relational experiences where vulnerability is present.

Date: Aug 24, 2025
Series: Follow - Walking in the Way of Jesus
Title: Parable of the mustard seed
Primary Passage: Mark 4:30-34

GOING DEEPER Questions: consider these with others, at coffee, in your group.

Do you believe these truth's? and have they taken root in your life?

1. If you have heard the truth of God's love (as revealed in the death of Jesus) and the truth of God's life (revealed in His resurrection) then the seed of the gospel has been planted in you.
2. The seed is not static. It is living and active. It carries the power of Christ's own life and, if received in faith, it will bear fruit, producing goodness in you and through you.

When did you first hear of the unconditional Love of God?

Was it hard to receive and believe in it?

What were / are some of the barriers or beliefs that make that difficult to believe?

As a Christ follower - is it becoming more reflexive of your nature to consider showing that kind of love for others?

Why do you think that is? or isn't?

What did you do this week that required Faith? How did it deepen your trust in God?

When you think of the 4 D's (listed in sermon notes)— is there one that stands out as being more of a struggle for you? Is there one that seems to regularly cause you to stumble and move away from Jesus?

What promises of God can help you overcome this? Do you know?
Have you ever talked with a friend, or anyone to help you with this?

How do you assess your own life, heart and soul?

- Q: What false belief or subtle lie has hardened me to God's truth, even while I still consider myself spiritual or sincere?
- Q: Do I only follow Jesus when it's easy or affirming, but quietly withdraw when life gets hard, uncomfortable, or costly?
- Q: What desire, anxiety, or pursuit is competing most with Jesus' voice in my life right now, and slowly choking out spiritual growth?

