Plants developing a complex, intricate process that humans still do not fully understand even two thousand years after Jesus spoke these words. Yet plants grow and bear fruit and seeds just the same. God’s kingdom likewise is growing, although we do not understand all that is happening. This parable, which appears only in Mark’s Gospel, presents God’s kingdom in brief, from first sowing to final reaping. (The Nelson Study Bible, Page 1648)

 **C. Parable of the Mustard Seed (4:30-34).** God's kingdom is like a mustard seed, so small when it is planted, yet eventually it becomes one of the largest plants!

 **1. The Parable (V. 30).** *30 Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?*

 **2. The Plant (Vs. 31-34).**

 **a. The Smallest Seed (V. 31).** *31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground.*

 **b. The Largest Plant (V. 32).** *32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."*

 **3. The Point of the Parable (Vs. 33-34).**

 **a. Jesus’ Public Teaching (Vs. 33-34a).** *33 With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. 34 He did not say anything to them without using a parable.*

 **b. Jesus’ Private Teaching (V. 34b).** *But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. (NIV)*

Jesus used this parable to explain that although Christianity had very small beginnings, it would grow into a worldwide community of believers. (Life Application Bible, Page 1737)

**III. CLOSE –** Little becomes much when you place it in God’s hand.

# *RISING STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH*

***2800 E. 36th Street***

#### Tucson, AZ 85713

## *Sermon Notes*

## *January 11, 2015*

***Give God Time To Work***

***Mark 4:21-34***

**Sermon Notes:** [www.risingstarbaptist.org](http://www.risingstarbaptist.org)

**Podcasting:** [www.allewisministries.org](http://www.allewisministries.org)

***Vision: A Local Church with a Global Reach***

***Motto: One Mind, One Heartbeat, One Direction.***

## *Rev. Amos L. Lewis*

***Senior Pastor***

**Give God Time To Work!**

**Mark 4:21-34**

**I. INTRODUCTION -** One thing about God is He is very patient. God dwells in eternity so He is not rushed by time. He can always take His sweet time because He is the author of time. In fact, time was created for us so we can do all we can while we can. However, we must learn to be patient as well because as the saying goes, “Roman wasn’t built in a day.” It takes time for a baby to be born, learn how to walk and talk, and do things for him/herself. Likewise, as new born babes in Christ it is going to take time for us to grow and be all that God has called us to be (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18). This is also true of any great ministry. It takes years to build a highly successful and sustainable ministry. Somebody said, anything that grows up overnight can also blow up overnight. It took me 20 year of leading, feeding, and caring for the flock before God was able to turn the vision for this campus into a reality and we aren’t done yet (Hab. 2:2). The fulfillment of the 20/20 vision is still a future reality (Hos. 2:9). He is still growing the pastor and His people for the next phase of the vision (Num. 23:19). Likewise, the kingdom of God will grow over time. Somebody said the only difference between an acorn and an oak tree is time. So give God time to work on you so you can be a huge asset to the kingdom of God.

**II. EXPOSITION OF THE TEXT**

 **A. The Parable of the Lamp Stand (4:21-25).**

Jesus’ lesson of the lamp, small clay vessel that burned a wick set in olive oil, is that light reveals what it glows on. Like the lamp, Jesus’ teachings reveal the motives of the human heart. (The Nelson Study Bible, Page 1648.

 **1. The Rhetorical Question (V. 21).** *21 He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand?*

**2. The Revelation (V. 22).**  *22 For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.*

**3. The Responsibility (Vs. 23-25).**

1. **Listen to the Word (V. 23).** *23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."*
2. **Learn the Word (V.****24).** *24 "Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you — and even more.*
3. **Live by the Word (V. 25).**  *25 Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."*

Jesus appeals for spiritual perception. Those who receive and assimilate truth will have their capacity for understanding enlarged and their knowledge increased. Those who disbelieve or are indifferent will lose whatever ability for understanding they have, and therefore will continue in ignorance. (The Spirit-Filled Life Bible, Page 1409)

 **B. Parable of the Growing Seed (4:26-29).** God's word, once it takes root in the heart of a believer, will in and by itself bring forth much fruit!

 **1. Our Part - The Illustration (V. 26).** *26 He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.*

 **2. God’s Part - The Application (Vs. 27-29).**

 **a. Growth is a Process (V. 27).** *27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.*

 **b. Growth Requires Power (V. 28).** *28 All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.*

 **c. Growth Produces a Harvest (V. 29).** *29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."*