

Thursday, March 12 ~ Shining the Light and Planting the Seed ~  
Mark 4:21-34

There are wonderful lessons in these parables. They all encourage patient faith. God's plan does not promise instantaneous growth, and it cannot be hurried. It's our job to shine the light and plant the seed.

The Parable of the Lamp brings to mind the preschool song: "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine." Can't you see the smiles on the kids' faces as they sing? That's how we all should be. Jesus is the light and the light of Christ shines in the hearts of believers. We all have a mission to reveal and uncover the light. Don't hide it. We all have access to the Bible, the Truth. Why is it that we often get so caught up in everyday life that we sometimes forget or don't make time for reading the Bible? The more we read, the more we absorb. As a result of spending time in Scripture, our light gets brighter. Don't we all want to glow with the Holy Spirit?

In Mark 4:26-29, we read the Parable of the Growing Seed. How many times do we pray and pray and pray and nothing happens? God has got this. Trust in the Lord and do not get discouraged. It is all in God's timing. The Parable of the Mustard Seed in Mark 4:30-34 teaches that the Holy Spirit is alive in all of us all the time. From that little tiny seed we are growing and growing in faith. We may not recognize the work that God is doing in us or the people around us but He is making us wiser and stronger.

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## A Lamp on a Stand

<sup>21</sup>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? <sup>22</sup>For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. <sup>23</sup>If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”

<sup>24</sup>“Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. <sup>25</sup>Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”

## The Parable of the Growing Seed

<sup>26</sup>He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup>As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

## The Parable of the Mustard Seed

<sup>30</sup>Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup>Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. <sup>34</sup>He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.