

## **I CAN ONLY IMAGINE ... OR CAN I?** *(Mark 4:21-34)*

*All three of these parables explain the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is an incredibly wonderful thing, yet one cannot fully imagine the conclusion from the beginning. All of these parables are stories of surprise.*

### **I. THE PARABLE OF THE LAMP (vv. 21-25)**

1. All of these parables explain that the Kingdom of God came and grows with the appearance of Jesus Christ.
2. The phrase “is a lamp brought” in Greek is literally *come the lamp*.
  - The reference is to Jesus Himself who has come.
  - Jesus is the light of men (John 1:4).
  - He is the “light of the world” (John 8:12).
3. Jesus said you don’t put a lamp under a bed or basket—you don’t cover it up.
  - God sent Jesus to bring light into a dark world—to reveal truth and bring hope.
4. The world may try to hide it but the light will still shine.
  - His resurrection and emanant return ensure that all the world will see He is the light!
  - Here’s a lesson for us, friends: We have the light—why would we hide it?
  - The world needs it! We want them to see it before it’s too late!

### **II. THE PARABLE OF THE SEED (vv. 26-29)**

1. This parable describes how God’s Kingdom grows.
  - The Kingdom cannot be precipitated by human effort unaided by God.
  - God’s will, His message, and His purpose will come about because He is at work.
2. This doesn’t mean we do nothing; a farmer does scatter the seed.
  - But there is a work independent of the farmer.
  - The seed contains the power within itself.
3. What does this mean to us?
  - You don’t need to worry when people do not understand you or accept your message.
  - You may sleep and rise, knowing God has invaded this world not with a bulldozer, but with a seed which will come to harvest.

### **III. THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED (vv. 30-32)**

1. This parable focuses not so much on the growth but the contrast.
  - The contrast is between the beginning and the end.
2. The mustard seed is an extremely small seed.
  - It’s not the smallest on earth, but considered the smallest in Jewish horticulture.
  - Yet, this herb would grow 8 to 10 feet tall. Birds would rest in the shade of its branches.
3. God most often begins His work in small obscure beginnings.
  - Sometimes we miss God’s work because we are looking for a lightning bolt, when all we need to see is a rain drop.

*Don’t forget that out of what may seem to be insignificant things, God does unimaginable works. You cannot imagine what all God may have planned.*