

REVEALED

An Exposition of the Book of Mark



Sow, Shine, Sleep

Mark 4:21-34

Main Idea

Shine brightly, sow generously, share boldly, and be confident the Kingdom will not fail but grow

Overview

- **Jesus has come to Shine**
 - Not general Lamp but THE Lamp has come
 - Lamps are not lit to be hidden but held up for all to see
 - The Lamp did not come to be hidden, but to be held up for all to see
 - Christ was executed publically for our sin, we should shine the light of the Gospel publically as well that Christ may shine

- **You sow, God grows**
 - Farmer sows, but seed grows on its own
 - Likewise, it is our responsibility to grow, but God will do the growing
 - We cannot make people grow, but only faithful in sowing
 - Because God does the growing the farmer sleeps and sees fruit
 - This gives us confidence and comfort in our sowing, that we cannot force results, God will do the growing

- **The Kingdom will not fail**
 - Mustard seed is small and grows large
 - Kingdom will start small and seemingly insignificant, but grow large
 - While things appear as though they are failing, God is faithfully building and growing
 - Recall the humble beginnings of Kingdom
 - Born in a manger by a woman
 - Savior crucified on a Cross
 - Apostles initially abandoned Christ and were scared
 - Only 120 followers after crucifixion
 - Now includes millions in throngs of countries

Questions

1. It is a popular saying that people should “keep their faith to themselves,” why would people want this to happen?
2. How can we “hide the lamp under the bushel”? How can we hold up the Lamp on the lampstand?
3. How does it inform us day to day to consider that God does the growing and we “sow and sleep?”
4. Why would God start with a “mustard” seed (i.e. so small and insignificant)?
5. How can this parable give us confidence in the advance of the Kingdom?