

“Seed for the Sower, Bread for the Eater”

Sermon

Mark 4:26-34

June 17, 2018

Rev. Joshua Reifsteck

- 1) **God chooses to speak to us through stories. This is not an accident.**

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything. *Mark 4:33–34*

- 2) **The power and peril of a story is often its openness to interpretation.**

³⁰And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

Mark 4:30–32

- 3) **Faithful Christians can disagree on interpretation, but we cannot disagree where Scripture is clear.**

¹⁹And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. *2 Peter 1:19–21*

- 4) **Whether we fully understand or not, God’s word accomplishes its mission.**

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. *Isaiah 55:10–11*