

MARK

Mark Wk 13
Mk. 4:21-34

General:

- Pastor Chip opened with the illustration of losing track of something and watching it “go dark.” Why is it often difficult to trust God when we can’t see what He’s doing?
- Have you ever gone through a season where you couldn’t see what God was doing, or whether He was doing anything at all? What was that experience like?
- Jesus teaches that a lamp is meant to be seen, not hidden. What do you think He is teaching about the message of the Kingdom?
- In verse 24, Jesus says, “Pay attention to what you hear.” Why is listening to God’s Word different from merely hearing it?
- When you hear God’s Word, do you find your heart becoming more receptive & responsive, or more resistant & indifferent? What might that reveal?
- Where have you seen God at work in ways that only became clear after looking back?
- In verse 27, Jesus describes the farmer scattering seed and then admits, “he knows not how” it grows. Why is it often harder to trust God with the results than it is to do the work He has called us to do?
- The mustard seed grows into something large enough to provide shelter for many. What does that imagery teach us about God’s heart for people and nations?

Take Home 1: There is no neutral encounter with God (Mk. 4:24a)

- Pastor Chip said, "The truth we ignore today becomes the truth we cannot see tomorrow." What do you think he meant by that?
- How do you typically respond when God's Word confronts something in your life that needs to change?
- Why can familiarity with God's Word sometimes become a danger rather than an advantage?

Take Home 2: The Kingdom does not need our control it only requires our faithfulness (Mk. 4:27)

- How do you reconcile God's sovereignty with our responsibility to share the gospel and make disciples?
- How do you respond when you've invested in someone spiritually but don't see immediate results?
- What does faithfulness look like when growth is slow, hidden, or invisible?
- Pastor Chip said, "Pride is hidden underneath a lot of anxiety in the church." When you become discouraged, frustrated, or anxious about not seeing results, what does that reveal about your expectations of yourself and God?

Take Home 3: We need to learn to embrace the mystery of the Kingdom and to trust in the sovereignty of God (Mk. 4:32)

- Reflect on your conversations over the past week. What subjects tend to occupy most of your attention and energy?
- What would it look like to be more intentional about planting seeds of truth, encouragement, and gospel conversations in your everyday relationships?
- Pastor Chip said, "God's Kingdom will advance and nothing can stop it." How should that truth affect the way we live, pray, serve, and share our faith in our everyday lives?