**The Parables of the Kingdom**

Mark 4:21-34

Key Verse 4:26-27 “He also said, ‘This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.”

1. Why do people put a lamp on its stand and not under a bowl or a bed? (21-22) In light of this, how should we live? (Matthew 5:14-16)

2. What does it mean to “consider carefully what you hear”? (23-24, 9) What kind of attitude is needed to hear and understand God’s word? (24-25)

3. How is the kingdom of God like a growing seed? (26) What does this parable teach us about God always being at work? (27-28; cf. John 5:17) How can we participate in God’s work? (26b,29)

4. What does the parable of the mustard seed teach about the kingdom of God? (30-32) How does the tiny mustard seed become a blessing to the garden and the birds?

5. What special privilege did Jesus’ disciples have and why? (34,11) How can we have the same privilege? (9,23)