

Mark 4:21-34 – How the Kingdom Operates

Follow-Up Questions – February 7

Have you ever struggled with Jesus playing what seems like two opposite roles – the Lion and the Lamb? What is more attractive to you, Jesus as the King or Jesus as crucified? Why? Please read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. What do those verses tell us about how we might operate and how God operates?

What do 1 Corinthians 1:25-31 offer in terms of explaining why God operates the way He does? Who should that lead us to have confidence in? What does Jeremiah 9:23-24 add to the discussion of confidence?

What do you think about parables? Do you wish Jesus was more direct? What do Mark 4:21-22 suggest about what Jesus will ultimately do? Why does Jesus say we need to hear in that verse 23?

Please read John 8:12-13. How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus being the light of the world? Did they have ears to hear? Please read Mark 4:24-25. What is involved in having ears to hear? How can we get God's word into our lives? How might that shape or re-shape some of our habits?

Please read Mark 4:26-29. What is your reaction to this parable? How does it impact how you view your part in being sent? How does it clarify who is sovereign or responsible over people coming to faith? What does it also tell us about God's Word? Is it a picture of Hebrews 4:12? How could that impact how you view God's Word in your own life?

Please read Mark 4:30-32. What does Jesus want us to know about the Kingdom of God through this story? How does that impact how you look at maybe doing something that might seem small or hidden?