

## Connect Group Questions

### Mark 4 – Kingdom of God – Seeds & Secrecy

1

The preacher commented on differing types of government/power in the world e.g. democracies, dictators, republics, monarchies, principalities, communists, empires etc.

Q – Has anybody in the group ever visited, or lived, in a country with a different type of 'ruling power' to democracy. What differences were noticeable in people's lives?

Q – Do you think democracy is the best form of earthly government/ruling power? Why?

Q – The preacher highlighted the Kingdom of God, as a '*Theocracy*'. Has anyone in the group ever heard/considered such a type of kingdom before? Is it right/practical to consider such a model of power, here on earth? If so, what role should the church play in it?

---

2

Read Mark 4:3-8

#### The Parable of The Sower

The preacher was almost scornful of the way the farmer scattered his seed, in a chaotic style.

Q – Do you agree that the way Mark records the sower tossing the seed around everywhere is wasteful, rather than being more orderly/thoughtful? Are we ever like that?

Q – What implications may this have upon us (and our church fellowship) to those around us?

---

3

Read Mark 4:26-29

#### The Parable of the Growing seed

This second sower seems equally incompetent, scattering seeds willy-nilly! This illustration/parable implies that anyone can be evangelist in sowing the seeds of the gospel! The preacher claimed there was an inherent potential for life bursting forth from the soil (hearer's hearts) when coming into contact with the gospel seed i.e 'power' is in the receiver, rather than the sower, per se.

Q – Do you agree with the preachers point(s) concerning this?

Q – If true, how would/should it affect our view & actions on sharing the gospel with others?

---

4

Read Mark 4:30-32

#### The Parable of the Mustard Seed

One of the preacher's observations, from this passage, is that it's God prerogative to decide how he uses the 'seeds of the gospel' we should simply sow and trust him to use/harvest accordingly.

Q – Had you previously considered this parable in this way i.e the sower was purposefully aiming for a spice plant and ended up with a bird aviary?!

Q – If we're being honest, how often do we 'map things out' in our minds, rather than waiting upon God's Spirit, in faith, to see how things will come into fruition?

## Reflection

*'Jesus told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, 'they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding"' Mark 4:11-12*

The preacher said that these words of Jesus were strange, with potentially stranger implications! He didn't elaborate further in any detail. However, he made reference to jazz music, concerning the need to occasionally simply engage & enjoy something, without having all the associated knowledge and know-how – a type of faith.

Ask members of the group to consider Jesus words, for themselves, when he said...

*'The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you.'*

Ask them to reflect upon the words for 3-5 mins, encouraging them to think about how & why God has revealed himself uniquely to them - what might it mean to how they live their lives.

---

## Prayer

*Lord God, King of the Kingdom, we acknowledge your Sovereignty over us today. We recognise and confess our self-centredness, defiance & arrogance – both towards you & others. We invite your Holy Spirit to assess and assist us, as we seek to subject ourselves fully to you, as our ruler.*

*Humbly we pray for your empowering, so that we may engage in being reckless sowers of your gospel seeds and worthy subjects. Give us a new revelation of your kingdom and bring about restoration - both within us and through us; so that we may become the reckless sowers of the gospel, that you have called us to be.*

*For the sake of your son, our community and the Kingdom of God; here on earth, as it is in heaven.*

**AMEN**