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Central Congregational Church  
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”  
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## Kingdom Realities (or, What’s Really Going On?)

Mark 4:26-34

Series: Getting In on the Good News  
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

### Central Passage

**Mark 4:26–32 (ESV)** — **26** And he said, “**The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. 27** He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. **28** The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. **29** But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” **30** And he said, “**With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? 31** It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, **32** yet 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.”

**Central Thought:** We get in on the Good News when we respond to the call of Jesus to trust in, pray for and work towards the fulfillment of the hidden activity and transformative potential of the kingdom of God, rather than the news and noise of the day.

**The focus of Jesus’ teaching = The kingdom of God.**

**Matthew 6:7–10 (ESV)** — **7** “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **9** Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. **10** Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

### Kingdom Realities...

❖ God is at work in the world!

**Colossians 1:3–6 (NLT)** — **3** We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **4** For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God’s people, **5** which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News. **6 This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.**

❖ God’s work is an act of grace!

**John 15:16 (NLT)** — **16** You didn’t choose me. **I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit...**

**1 Corinthians 3:5–7 (ESV)** — **5** What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. **6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. **7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.**

❖ God’s work is always productive!

**Isaiah 55:10–11 (ESV)** — **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, **11 so 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.**

**John 15:16 (NLT)** — **16** You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.