

The Kingdom of God has come near; Repent and believe the good news!

Hempfield United Methodist Church

"Live Like Christ"

November 25, 2018

Be Careful How You Hear!

Mark 4:21-34

21 And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? 22 For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." 24 And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear; with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. 25 For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

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."

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. 34 He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

What? (What does this Bible passage say?)

God's word has the ability to uncover mysteries of the kingdom and secret sins.

Hebrews 4:12

1 Peter 1:22-25

So What? (What does this Bible passage mean?)

God's word produces the fruit of the kingdom within us, little by little.

Luke 17:20-21

Now What? (How does this Bible passage affect our lives?)

Embrace the cross every day, and carry it wherever you go.

Romans 1:16

Sermon Notes

Application *for Abundant Living*

What is the condition of your heart today? Do you have a hard heart, or are you concerned about the anxieties and riches of this life? Or is your heart humble and obedient?

Commit to taking at least 10 minutes of every day to spend reading the book of Mark - 1 chapter a day. Spend time with Jesus in silent prayer and reflection upon the cross.

Questions *for Group Discussion*

How have you seen the kingdom of God manifested this week?

How is God changing you to be more like Christ?

Who is someone you can share the gospel message with this week? Commit to praying for that person every day and for opportunities for you to share Christ with them.