




**FOLLOWING THE HIDDEN KING**

**Mark 4:26-34**

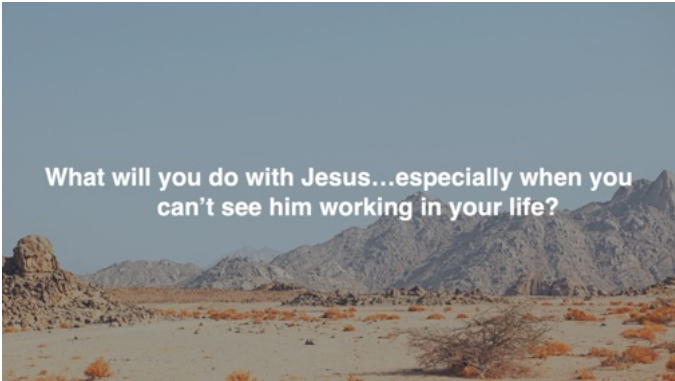
**IN FOUR CHAPTERS OF MARK**

- The birth and baptism of Jesus.
- The temptations of Jesus.
- The beginning of Jesus' ministry.
- Jesus calling his disciples.
- 3 accounts of Jesus calling a disciple(s)
- 5 stories of healing.
- 11 accounts of Jesus' teaching

**1:15** The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.



**What will you do with Jesus?**



**What will you do with Jesus...especially when you can't see him working in your life?**



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<sup>26</sup> And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

#### Mark 4:26-34

<sup>30</sup> And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it?" <sup>31</sup> It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup> 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."

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

#### THE KING'S PROMISE

##### Mark 4

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**Major misconception about peace:**  
We believe that peace comes from having control or knowledge.

##### He does not know have the knowledge

*27 He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.*

##### He does not have control

*28 The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.*

##### But he has all the peace.

*27 He sleeps and rises night and day,*

We believe that peace comes from having control or knowledge.

**But God promises that even when you're not in control, and even when you don't know enough, He will give you peace.**

#### THE KING'S QUIET WORK

##### Mark 4

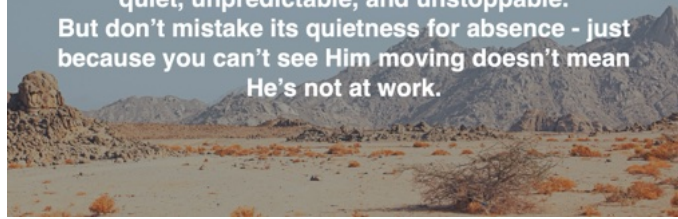
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#### Daniel 4

<sup>10</sup> The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: **I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great.** <sup>11</sup> The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was **visible to the end of the whole earth.** <sup>12</sup> Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and **all flesh was fed from it.**



**The Kingdom of God is quiet, unpredictable, and unstoppable. But don't mistake its quietness for absence - just because you can't see Him moving doesn't mean He's not at work.**



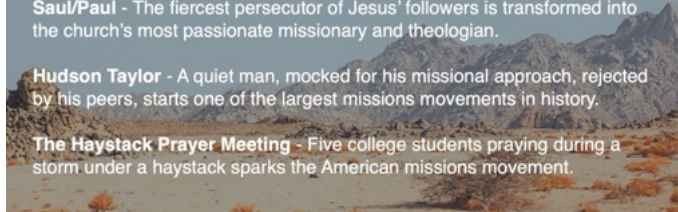
**Moses** - A man with a speech impediment, exiled for murder, becomes the one who stands before Pharaoh to lead Israel to freedom.

**David** - The youngest and smallest of eight sons, overlooked even by his own father becomes the greatest king in Israel's history.

**Saul/Paul** - The fiercest persecutor of Jesus' followers is transformed into the church's most passionate missionary and theologian.

**Hudson Taylor** - A quiet man, mocked for his missional approach, rejected by his peers, starts one of the largest missions movements in history.

**The Haystack Prayer Meeting** - Five college students praying during a storm under a haystack sparks the American missions movement.



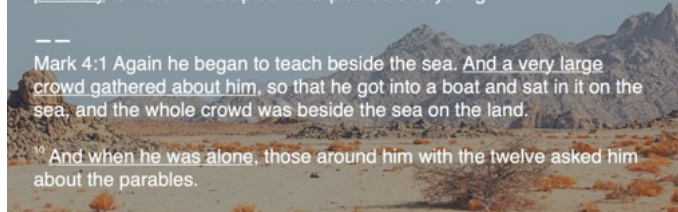
#### THE KING'S SPEECH

##### Mark 4

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

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Mark 4:1 Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.

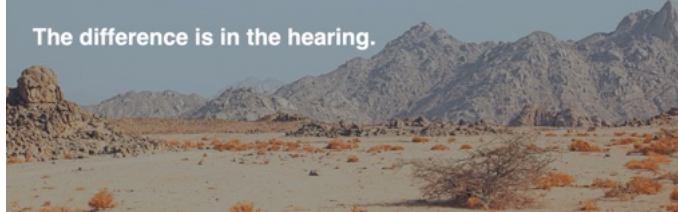
<sup>10</sup> And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables.



#### What's the difference between the crowd and the disciples?

Mark 4:33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it.

**The difference is in the hearing.**



**The crowd** hears Jesus' words—but only at the level they're comfortable with. They enjoy the teaching as long as it's interesting, inspiring, or useful.

**The disciples** want the truth, even if confusing, challenging, or uncomfortable. They're willing to hear what Jesus has to say.





**Mark 4:24**

Privately to His own disciples He explained everything.

**The disciples want God, not their own version of God**

**10 COMMANDMENTS**

#1 You shall have no other gods.

#2 You shall make no carved image (of God).

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If you spent hours carving the most accurate image of God you could imagine, when you were done and looked at it, it would look more like you than like Him.

**Making a carved image of God is just another version of worshipping yourself.**

**THE CROWD**

- They will pick and choose what to hear from Jesus.
- They are chiseling God into their own image.

**THE DISCIPLES**

- They have ears to hear. (Mark 4:23, 33)
- They allow God to be God. They don't want a their version of God.
- They want God to chisel them into his image.

**Mark**

CHRIST'S POWER OVER EVERY NEED