

# WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



Who Do You Say He Is?  
Mark 4:21 – 34

"Who do you say that I am?" This is the question that Jesus asked his disciple, Peter? And this is the question people asked throughout Jesus' earthly life. From his teachings to his healings and to the miracles he performed, people wrestled with the identity of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark was written to answer just this question—Who do you say Jesus is? And this question is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago when Jesus asked it of Peter? In our journey through the Gospel of Mark we will study the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus and ask ourselves, "Who do you say he is?"

Jesus' kingdom grows in the most unexpected ways and in the most unassuming people.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Mark 4:21 – 34

<sup>21</sup>He said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand? <sup>22</sup>For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. <sup>23</sup>If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”

<sup>24</sup>“Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. <sup>25</sup>Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”

<sup>26</sup>He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup>As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup>Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. <sup>34</sup>He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.”

- Jesus’ parables were all about the kingdom of God. Why is that context important?
- When you think about the kingdom of God growing in yourself and out in the world, what images or examples come to mind?
- In v. 25, Jesus says something similar to, “The rich get richer; the poor get poorer.” How do we see this principle at work in the world? How does Jesus reappropriate this principle for his kingdom?
- Read Luke 6:20 – 26. According to God, what defines “richness” and “poorness?”
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:5 – 9. What are our roles in promoting kingdom growth—both inside and outside Vintage? What is God’s role?
- In what ways do worldly kingdoms try to build and grow their empires? Think of some positive ways (ex. ingenuity) and negative ways (ex. fear). Compare this to how God grows his kingdom.

- How do each of the following pertain to God's kingdom growth in our lives? God's grace, God's timing, and God's will.
- God calls us to wait patiently and trust his process of spiritual growth. Why is this so hard?
- In your current season of life, how is God growing you spiritually?
- In what ways is the church like a society of puny, mustard seed?
- What parallels do you see with Jesus' story—from birth to resurrection—and the parable of the mustard seed?
- The kingdom grows in the most unexpected ways and in the most unassuming people. Jesus' is trying to reframe our paradigm for how his kingdom grows. Pray that this week we can let the truths of these parables in Mark 4 take root and grow in our hearts.