

A photograph of a church sanctuary during a service. A man in a blue suit stands at a wooden podium on the right, reading from a book. The sanctuary is filled with a large, diverse audience seated in pews, facing the front. The background features large arched windows and modern lighting fixtures.

# Ambassadors Sunday School Class

- August 17, 2025
- Evangelism is biblically defined, has mandated elements, must be a priority, and we must make a commitment to practice it.

## A. Fruitful Hearers - Mark 4

- The good news (1 Cor. 15:3ff; 2 Cor. 5:18–21)
  - is the work of God's grace
  - apart from any self-righteous effort
  - Ephesians 2:8–9

# 1. The parable of the soils (Mark 4:3–20)

- Focuses on the recipients of the gospel
  - those who would reject the message
  - those who would genuinely embrace it
  - Mark 4:20

## 2. By contrast, the subsequent parables (in vv. 21–32)

- Highlight the responsibility
  - of the faithful hearer as an evangelist
  - (cf. Rom. 1:13; Col. 1:3–6)
- Jesus expanded on that theme.
  - These are not disconnected stories
  - These are interrelated illustrations carefully arranged by Jesus to make a divine truth clear (v. 13)

### 3. Fruitful Hearers Witness Obediently (4:21–23)

- Those who have received the light of the gospel
  - are not to conceal it
  - they are to let it shine for others to see

## 4. Fruitful Hearers Work Expectantly (4:24–25)

- Jesus highlighted
  - the importance of serious dedication to the task
  - because of the promise of eternal reward for their faithfulness

## 5. Fruitful Hearers Wait Dependently (4:26–29) Today's Passage

- The farmer
  - not the power behind the regeneration of the seed
- The evangelist
  - not the power behind the regeneration of souls

## 6. Fruitful Hearers Walk Confidently (4:30–34)

- The kingdom of heaven
  - at that moment was tiny
  - like a mustard seed
- It would grow
  - to encompass the entire world
  - for generation after generation



## **B. Fruitful Hearers Wait Dependently**

### **Mark 4:26-29**

- Believers are called
  - to witness obediently and work expectantly,
  - but they cannot produce life.
- Only God can give spiritual life
  - (cf. John 3:3–8; 2 Cor. 4:5–7)
- It is a parable comparing the kingdom of God to the mystery of a growing seed

# 1. The Primary Duty of the Farmer (26-27a)

- The kingdom of God = the sphere of salvation
- A man (sower) = evangelist ... you and me in this context
- Seed = message of the gospel
- The soil = hearers
- The evangelist (represented by the sower)
  - distributes the message of the gospel (the seed).
  - after he finishes sowing the seed, he goes to bed at night and sleeps

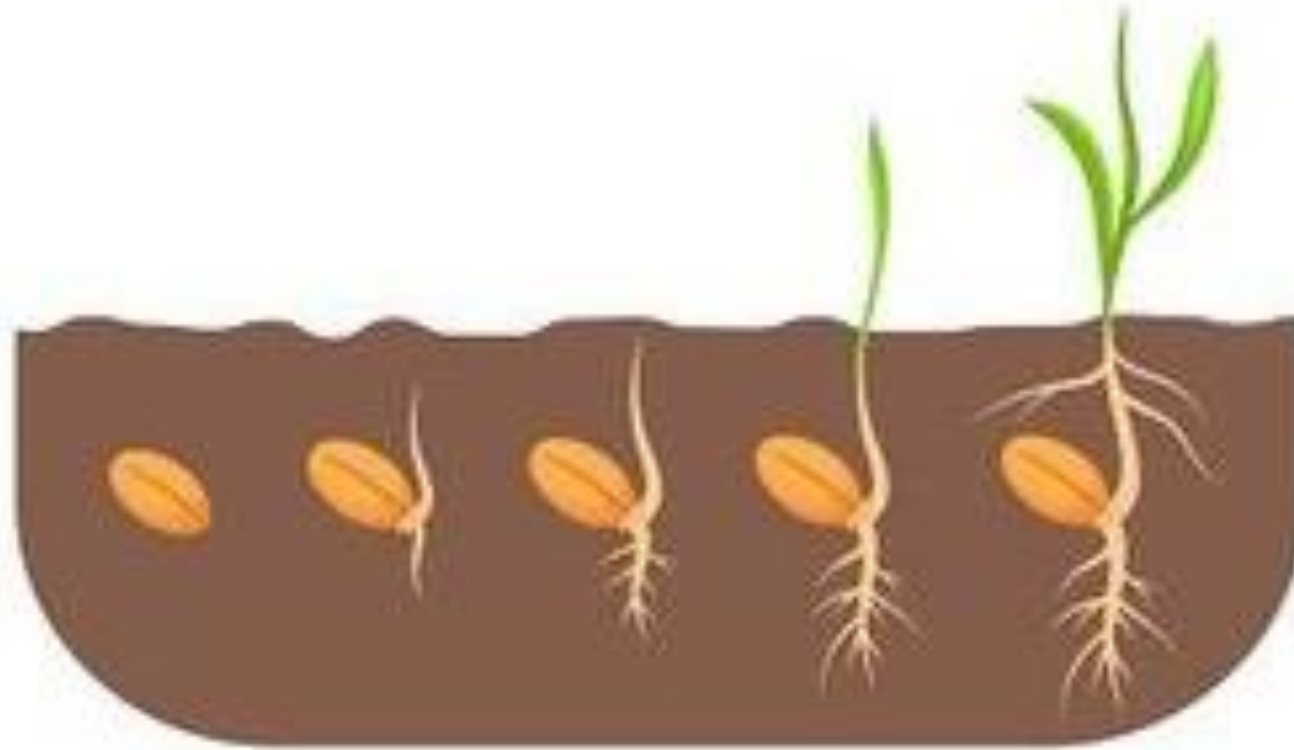
## 2. The Mysterious Growth of the Seed (27-28)

a. We can't fully understand how it grows (27b)

- The farmer
  - cannot cause the seed to sprout
  - or new life to form
  - or even fully understand how it comes to life



# Germination of Wheat Seed



## 2. The Mysterious Growth of the Seed (27-28) continued

b. We can't make it grow (28a).

- *The sower is not involved in the process (John 3:8; 1 Tim. 3:16)*
- *This is the work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:5–8; John 6:37–44; Rom. 1:16; 1 Thess. 1:5; 1 Peter 1:23 )*
- *Regeneration is only by the Spirit of God (cf. Eph. 2:1–4; Titus 3:5 )*
- *Though believers are all called to faithfully proclaim the message, they can take no credit when unbelievers respond in repentant faith (cf. 1 Cor. 3:6–7)*
- ***By itself*** (αὐτοματῇ [*automatē*]). Automatically Acts 12:10

## 2. The Mysterious Growth of the Seed (27-28) continued

c. We can't always see it grow (28b)

- The point of this parable is
- in the same way that the farmer is not the power behind the regeneration of the seed,
- so also the evangelist is not the power behind the regeneration of souls.
- (1 Cor. 3:6). (cf. Rom. 10:13–17 )





2. The Mysterious Growth of the Seed  
(27-28) continued

first the blade, then the head,  
then the mature grain in the head



### 3. The Absolute Certainty of the Harvest (29)

- Even though the sower did not cause the growth of the grain
  - he still rejoices in the harvest (cf. 2 Tim. 2:6)
  - whenever the fruit yields itself or permits
- **Puts in** (ἀποστέλλει [*apostellei*])
  - the word for *apostle* comes from this verb
  - see John 4:38

When the crop permits, he immediately puts  
in the sickle, because the harvest has come



## C. The Implications of the Parable

1. The power of God is in the seed!
  - The seed of the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:18)
  - The seed of the Word of God (1 Th. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:15)
2. God alone is sovereign in salvation—*He* causes the seed to grow.
3. Jesus still expects every Christian to sow the seed.
4. Be patient with God to use the Word you've sown.
5. Our sowing ensures the eventual harvest.
6. If the seed has been sown in your heart, Jesus commands you to repent of your sin and believe the gospel (Mk. 1:14-15).

# Conclusion

- The present age is a time for missions and testimony to the salvation offered in the Word of God.
- The message will be variously received, but many will prove good soil for the divine seed and will bring forth fruit by the power of God.
- We can effectively share the gospel with confidence.