



**Sometimes It Just Seems So Easy
(Mark 4:26-34)**



**Sometimes It Just Seems So Easy
(Mark 4:26-34)**



**Sometimes It Just Seems So Easy
(Mark 4:26-34)**

Live like a cat: Trust that your Master shall provide

- Food
- Shelter
- Protection
- Clothing/Fur
- Companionship
- Love

Review: The Four Soils

(Mark 4:1-20)

The Soils	Lessons
The hardened path	--Satan interferes --People reject the Gospel --People are oblivious
The rocky soil	--Worship and conversion is emotionally exciting! --But the need to find an environment for growth: attend Sunday service and fellowship, read the Bible, pray, help others, etc.
The thorns	--Avoid being ensnared by the world: materialism, worthy-but-excessive responsibilities
The good soil	--The rewards of living a Christ-centered life: contentment, needs met, joy of sharing the Gospel

Review: The Basket and the Lampstand (Mark 4: 21-25)

Material Objects	Lessons
The Basket	--A Time of Waiting: God builds our character; our faith is built up --The Dark Night of the Soul: We do not feel God's presence; our faith is built up
The Lampstand	--We get to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ --We are examples of faithful Christians, but with the honor comes responsibility

The Parable of the Growing Seed: Mark 4:26-29 (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.”
- **The ways of God and His Kingdom are ultimately a mystery to human beings**
- **Definition: “mystery” . . .**

Definition of “Mystery”

- “The best theology has always maintained that the known must be balanced by the unknown. . . compelling the worshiper with awe toward [God] but remaining ultimately beyond the grasp of human reason and imagination.”

--S. Motyer, *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, 2nd ed.

--A “mystery” in Christianity is an acknowledgement that there is a reason for why things happen; however, that understanding is only known to God. (The actions of God are not chaotic or impulsive.)

--MM

The mysteries of botany

- 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.

--Mark 4:27b-28 (ESV)

--God created the DNA that provides a blueprint for growth

--“The mystery of the moment”: how does the seed know when to initiate a change in its growth pattern?

Trust and Rest in the Lord

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

--Mark 4:27 (ESV)

- ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

--Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)

--The ranch hand: "I sleep well at night"

Definition: *acedia*

- Greek: *akedeia*; indifference
- Noun: spiritual or mental sloth; apathy
- Ironically, the need to always stay busy can be a sign of having “acedia” because a hyper-busy person can avoid taking an honest look at who they are and what is their relationship with God.

Resting in the Lord

- ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

--Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)

How to Rest in the Lord: Live by His Covenant

- ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws into their minds,
and write them on their hearts,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

--Hebrews 8:10 (ESV)

God's Blessings to Humans: Planting and Harvesting

- For this is the vengeance of the LORD:
take vengeance on her;
do to her as she has done.
¹⁶ Cut off from Babylon the sower,
and the one who handles the sickle in time of harvest;
--Jeremiah 50:15-16 (ESV)

The Parable of the Mustard Seed: (Mark 4:30-32)

- 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 [shrubs] and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”
- **Small does not mean insignificant**
- **Growth can be visible or spiritual**
- **God’s kingdom is available to all people**

Takeaways

- A. (Re)Commit yourself to Jesus as Savior and Lord of your life
- B. Follow the commands and plans of the Lord
- C. “Let Go and Let God” (1 Peter 5:5b-7)
- D. Simplify, simplify
- E. No need to feel guilty when “it just seems so easy”

C. Let Go and Let God (1 Peter 5:5b-7)

- “Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’
- ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

Let Us Pray

