

Seeds Grow

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 13, 2014 • Pastor Chris Lankford

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

~Mark 4:28 (ESV)

1) *Slinging Seed*

- A) The Parable of the Secretly Growing Seed is found only in Mark 4:26-29, and is followed by the better known Parable of the Mustard Seed (4:30-32), which also has parallels in Matthew 13:31-32 & Luke 13:18.
- B) In Mark's Gospel (probably the first-written Gospel account, based on Peter's perspectives), Chapter 4 is the "seed chapter," containing the important (and context setting) Parable of the Soils (Mark 4:3-20).
- C) The most significant context for the parables we will consider today is found Mark 4:14, "the sower sows the word." By our Christ-unified identity, we constantly sling the seed of God's Word, it's who we are!

2) *Seed Grows*

- A) Scattering seed is an intentional action (Mark 4:26), which considers environment (cf. 4:3-20). While we scatter seed by our nature, we also cultivate good environments for growth, "aiming" for fertile soil.
- B) But, "life goes on" (4:27), and while we do not often see seed develop, God has designed the "soils" of earth for growth (4:28). The seed of God's Word grows. It's what seed does -- seed grows. As God's "Gospel Farmers," this should fill us with great confidence!

3) *Explosively Expansive Harvest*

- A) God is at work! He is bringing the harvest because it is the natural effect of His Word. Expect a harvest from the fertile soil in which God's Word is planted (4:29). The harvest is explosive (4:31), producing a great return on investment (4:32). From small beginnings comes unexpected growth and expansion, beyond the expectation of its beginnings!