

Mark 4:26-34

He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Marcos 4:26-34

Jesús dijo también: «Con el reino de Dios sucede como con el hombre que siembra semilla en la tierra: que lo mismo da que esté dormido o despierto, que sea de noche o de día, la semilla nace y crece, sin que él sepa cómo. Y es que la tierra produce por sí misma: primero el tallo, luego la espiga y más tarde los granos que llenan la espiga. Y cuando ya el grano está maduro, lo recoge, porque ha llegado el tiempo de la cosecha.»

También dijo Jesús: «¿A qué se parece el reino de Dios, o con qué podremos compararlo? Es como una semilla de mostaza que se siembra en la tierra. Es la más pequeña de todas las semillas del mundo, pero una vez sembrada, crece y se hace mayor que todas las otras plantas del huerto, con ramas tan grandes que hasta las aves pueden posarse bajo su sombra.»

De esta manera les enseñaba Jesús el mensaje, por medio de muchas parábolas como éstas, según podían entender. Pero no les decía nada sin parábolas, aunque a sus discípulos se lo explicaba todo aparte.

Prayer of Confession

God of Life, we confess that all too often we are focused on ourselves, on our families, on the people close to us, and we neglect those in need all around.

We feel we are justified, we cannot help everyone, but yet you called us to love one another, to lift up the poor, pray for the sick, and visit the imprisoned.

Help us to see all of Your children as our kindred in Christ.

Help us to remember that we are all part of Your Beloved Community and we cannot live for ourselves anymore if we hope to live with You, now and throughout eternity.

In the name of Christ, who gave his life for us, and lives again for us, we pray. Amen.