PASTOR'S NOTES

The King and His Growing Kingdom

Mark 4:21-34

Jesus reveals the truths of his kingdom through his word. (Mark 4:21-25)

The parable of the lamp helps us to understand Jesus' statement to his disciples: *"To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables."* (Mark 4:11)

Jesus asks whether a lamp "comes" to be hidden. Of course, a lamp isn't brought into a room to be hidden beneath a basket or a bed. It is brought in to provide light. Likewise, Jesus did not come to leave the kingdom of God permanently concealed. He came to make it known.

"Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you." (Mark 4:24) Jesus is teaching an important principle about how we respond to his word. Those who receive God's word with faith will be given greater understanding. But those who reject his revelation will lose even the understanding they already have.

We have a great privilege in having, holding, and hearing God's word, and that privilege comes with responsibility.

This parable doesn't ask how much of his word we have heard; it asks what we are doing with the truth God has already made known to us.

Jesus sovereignly brings growth to his kingdom. (Mark 4:26-29)

This parable begins with a man sowing seed. That sounds basic enough, but it's essential to the harvest. Without seed, there will be no harvest.

Notice what happens in the parable after the seed is sown: the farmer sows and then continues with his ordinary schedule. Life goes on while something remarkable is happening beneath the soil. In this, Jesus makes a point about his kingdom. The farmer has a responsibility to sow, but he cannot make the seed come alive or produce the harvest. The growth that happens is beyond his control.

Do your work faithfully and leave the results to the Lord. For the kingdom of God grows according to God's sovereign purposes.

Notice also the process happening in the parable. The growth takes place over time, according to a process the farmer cannot control. And eventually, the harvest comes. Jesus is assuring us that the growth of his kingdom is moving toward an appointed completion. God will accomplish everything he has purposed.

Jesus grows his kingdom far beyond its humble beginnings. (Mark 4:30-34)

The mustard seed is very small, the smallest known to people in that region, but it produced a large plant. The listener would easily see the contrast between the tiny mustard seed and the disproportionately large plant it produced. Jesus pointed out the contrast to illustrate the coming growth of his gospel ministry.

From a worldly perspective, most would have considered the Jesus movement insignificant. Yet Jesus illustrates through the parable that what begins small will grow to greatness, far beyond what people might have expected.

The kingdom of God is ever growing and expanding, providing shelter, protection, and benefit to people.

Let's consider what Jesus has taught us.

- He reveals the truths of his kingdom through his word.
- The growth of his kingdom doesn't depend on our ability but upon God's sovereign power.
- And what began with a small group of followers in Galilee has grown into a worldwide proclamation of the gospel.

We are called to hear his word, receive it with faith, and faithfully make it known while remembering that the kingdom belongs to Jesus. He is the King who reveals its truth, gives it growth, and will bring it to its appointed fulfillment.

You may think that you're not making an impact when sharing the gospel, ministering among your LifeGroup, or discipling family and friends. Your service might seem unimpressive by the world's standards, seemingly small. But God accomplishes his purposes in his perfect timing through the faithful proclamation of this word.

Keep being faithful, no matter how insignificant your ministry may seem today. We can be certain that God's kingdom will advance and reach the measure that he sovereignly has appointed.

MeadowBrook CHURCH

Sunday, November 15, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com



INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS OFFERING

MeadowBrook gives generously because we desire Christ's Kingdom to bear fruit in our community and around the world through the work of missionaries like our very own: the Underhills. Their gospel ministry has already transformed lives such as "K's," a recent convert now walking in the joy of Christ and growing as a disciple.

When we give, a portion of every dollar given in the general offering and every dollar given to International Missions Offering supports the Underhills and missionaries like them around the world—and lives are changed!

So, let us be faithful to hold the rope for such people as the Underhills in our regular praying and giving.

International Missions Offering Envelopes are available in the seat pockets or you can give online at mbchurch.com.

The gospel changes everything

CONNECT *people to Christ and His church*

MEADOWBROOK'S

Christmas CELEBRATION

THE KING IS COMING

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus—our Savior and King! This year, we're excited to offer three services, including a special matinee, featuring our combined choirs, Orchestra, and Kids Choir. Tickets are $5 each, with all proceeds going to our International Missions Offering.

Come experience the Christmas story through Scripture, worship, and music as we celebrate the good news of Christ's coming.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 at 6:30 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 1:30 PM
{55+ Lunch Combo option available}

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 6:30 PM

Tickets are available on the App or mbchurch.com



GROW *them as disciples and equip them to*

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool
2:00 pm - WOM Lottie Moon Cookie Bake - Dining Hall
5:00 pm - Deacons Meeting - Conference Center
6:30 pm - The Collective - Theater

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16
10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center
4:30 pm - Men's Bible Study - Conference Center

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Abundant Life Choir singing at Veteran's Home, Pell City
9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Worship Center

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
(Spaghetti with Meatballs, Breadsticks, Salad, Dessert, or Salad with a Protein; Kids: Same or PB&J)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210
6:30 pm - Wednesday Men's Group & Women's Group, Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a FREE gift!

life group

Life together for the Kingdom of God

Take the next step toward finding Christ-Centered community at MeadowBrook by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a Life Group booklet at Guest Connections.

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

Nov 15 - Zechariah 8:9-23
Nov 16 - Zechariah 9:1-8
Nov 17 - Zechariah 9:9-17
Nov 18 - Zechariah 10
Nov 19 - Zechariah 11:1-6
Nov 20 - Zechariah 11:7-17
Nov 21 - Zechariah 12:1-9

SERVE *through missions, ministry and worship*

Women on Mission
Lottie Moon Cookie Bake
TODAY
2-4 PM • DINING HALL
RSVP on the App or mbchurch.com



NEXT STEPS
TAKE THE NEXT STEP AT MEADOWBROOK

NEXT STEPS LUNCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 11:45 AM | CONFERENCE CENTER

This lunch is for anyone who has been attending and prayerfully considering membership at MeadowBrook. We'll walk through our doctrine, beliefs, structure and answer any questions you may have. (Pre-requisite for membership)

Register on the App or mbchurch.com

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kyle Hughes, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Jamye Ingram, Tiki Kemp, Anna Rae Wilson, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, Loucille Edge, Linda Dees

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Archie Wade, Landon Cunningham, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Tim Davis, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Larry Parker, Sandra & Wendell Qualls, Aiden Barron, Ruth Ann Stough, Dele Cannon

- Loucille Edge - Gadsden Regional
- Donny Machen - recovering from knee replacement
- Kim Nails - recovering from knee surgery
- Don Garris - Encompass Rehab
- Bob Sanford - recovering from heart procedure