

Lesson VIII.

JESUS TEACHING BY PARABLES—
THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM

February 24, 1918

Mark 4 : 21-34. *Scripture Memory Verse, 1 Sam. 3 : 10.

Golden Text—The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.—Isaiah 11 : 9.

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when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth :

32 But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches ; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

33 And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.

34 But without a parable spake he not unto them : and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Our picture shows us Jesus as he sat in the boat telling stories. See how the men are looking at him, and listening to every word he is saying to them. Jesus told them how God's kingdom is going to grow till it spreads all over the world.

"When you light a candle, do you put it under a cover so its light cannot be seen?" Jesus asks. "No," he says, "that would be foolish. It is meant to spread light all around, so the candle must be set up on a candlestick where everybody can see it and

21 And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed ? and not to be set on a candlestick ?

22 For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested ; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.

23 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

24 And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear : with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you : and unto you that hear shall more be given.

25 For he that hath, to him shall be given : and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.

26 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground ;

27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself ; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

30 And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God ? or with what comparison shall we compare it ?

31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which,

enjoy its light." Jesus was telling the secrets of God's kingdom to a few, so that they would be able to tell many others, but anybody who had ears to hear and could understand was welcome to hear and know all that Jesus had to tell. They might all become "candles" to spread the light of God's kingdom, if they were able to understand Jesus' teaching.

A man put seed into the ground and then went about his work. He went to sleep at night and got up every day and went to look at his field, till at last, one day, the seed

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