

## **Palm Sunday, April 1, 2007**

### **“Where on Earth Is the Kingdom of God?”**

**Pastor Steven Chin**

#### **Mark 4: 21-34**

<sup>21</sup> He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? <sup>22</sup> For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. <sup>23</sup> If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

<sup>24</sup> "Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you-and even more. <sup>25</sup> Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."

<sup>26</sup> He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain-first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup> As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup> Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

<sup>33</sup> With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand.

<sup>34</sup> He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

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#### I. The Nature of the Kingdom of God

#### II. Characteristics of the Kingdom of God Today

##### A. Parable of the Lamp

##### B. Parable of the Measure

C. Parable of the Seed

D. Parable of the Mustard Seed