

A SEEDY GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

The good news of a _____ experiment

The _____ seed

The good news of _____

Depending the _____

It will _____

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

It is a really, incredibly, wonderful even gift that we are able to read the Bible in our own language and receive its witness to the work and life of God in it. The greatest difficulty, of course, is that we don't often understand it – or the nuance in which he is talking to his day and to our day in it. We miss some, or even most of the humor, because while he talks about very serious things, he does not always do so in a serious way. Still reading after all these years, there's so much depth to what Jesus does that I continue to learn. The Parables invite that – reflect for a minute on one of Jesus' parables, if you only remember a bit of it, go type that into a search engine and read it. Try thinking about that as something he is speaking about the in breaking reign of God, is there humor that you miss? Concern? What makes that parable stand out for you?

Reflect:

In what ways does Jesus upend conventional assumptions about the world and how it should work? What do you know to be true, but struggle to live out, that Jesus points out to you?

In what ways is our perception of Jesus limited?

Respond:

God's kingdom comes without our prayers, but we pray that it comes among us also.

Remember: "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." – Mark 4:30b-32