

The Good Seed

The gospel for this coming Sunday (Fourth after Pentecost) is Mark 4:26-34. The reading includes two parables. Both of them include the concept the kingdom of God and of a growing seed.

Whenever Christ speaks about the kingdom of God, His ruling activity, His words always have something to do with the seed, the gospel that brings men to faith in Christ Jesus. Here Jesus speaks of the power and reliability of the gospel message. A farmer who plants the seed does not understand how it grows. The power is in the seed. So it is with the gospel.

God's will is expressed well in 1 Timothy 2:4 where it states: "*who (God) desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*" Luther's Small Catechism says: The kingdom of grace comes to us and remains with us, when the means of grace, the Gospel and the Sacraments are administered among. We ask that we who have accepted it may remain faithful and grow daily in it. God in his infinite wisdom uses us bring the gospel message to those around us and thereby lead them into a saving faith.

The main point of this parable is that the kingdom of God seemingly had insignificant beginnings. It was introduced by the despised and rejected Jesus and his 12 unimpressive disciples. But a day will come when its true greatness and power will be seen by all the world.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for bringing me into your kingdom of grace. Thank you for giving us your precious and powerful Word. Help us to share it freely with all who cross our paths. Help us to grow our faith by being in your Word. Amen