

Quiz Mark 4:26-34

To get excited you have to have eyes to see that which is not yet visible. You have to be able to see into the future — to see that which will be, instead of that which just is.

Jesus calls us to see something more than the _____ things that we do here on earth. Jesus is calling us to see in our minds and hearts what will come of it all. Jesus calls us to see our congregation as making a real difference in our world.

Jesus says, "the kingdom of God is like a _____ seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the _____ on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

God makes it possible. God takes the little seed and causes it to germinate — and then to grow. It grows a little bit at a time — so slowly that we can't see it grow — so slowly that we just know that it isn't growing — but it is growing. Come back next month, and you will see the difference. But, we see it before all of this happens. God calls us to see what we do here in this congregation as like that seed that sprouts in a tiny bit of soil in the _____ of a great rock. That seed doesn't look like much, but it has power. It puts its roots down between the walls of that crevice and begins to push — and pretty soon it splits the rock. That's hard to _____, but Jesus calls us to imagine it. He calls us to envision work of this congregation as having that kind of power. He calls us to envision our Sunday school teacher having that kind of power — and our lay leader — and all of the people whose efforts, great and small, keep this congregation going.

— You might ask how that's possible. How is it possible that the ordinary people of this congregation can change the _____? The answer is that the one who puts power into a tiny seed also puts power into the church. The power by which we work is not our power but is God's power.

The forces of evil worry about us - Christ's _____ — the church. What we do in our worship service might not appear to be significant, but it brings us close to God - the one who causes the tides to rise and fall - the one who brought Jesus back from the dead - the one whom the powers of evil fear.

The _____ of God grows into world-changing dimensions every time we hear the scriptures read — every time we sing a hymn — every time we gather around the Lord's Table — every time we give a prayer shawl - every time we give money for mosquito nets to relieve the suffering of future _____ victims — every time we ask, "What would Jesus do?" Each time we do those things, the kingdom grows.

As ordinary people in an ordinary church, we are often tempted to ask what we can do — can we really make a difference. Jesus calls us to do the littlest things — scattering the seed of faith — the seed of generosity — the seed of kindness — the seed of love.

- A. disciples
- B. kingdom
- C. imagine

- D. mustard
- E. malaria
- F. seeds

- G. ordinary
- H. crevice
- I. world