

NCS MESSAGE GUIDE

TOPIC: Becoming Aware of God's Presence

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:30-32

CENTRAL TRUTH: For positive change and personal growth we must stay alert and aware of what God is saying to us.

PRAYER: Father, I pray that I do not miss what you are trying to say to me in this moment of crisis.

Scripture

32 Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? **33** It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, **34** but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade."

Message Summary

Today's message is a parable that Jesus gave to his disciples to teach them what the Kingdom of God is like. A parable is a story that tells a spiritual truth. In this parable Jesus says that the Kingdom of God is like a small mustard seed that becomes the largest plant in the garden. Many times in this story we jump to talk about how big the plant is, but we must not forget that it started off as a small seed. A tiny seed is difficult to see. We must squint and pay close attention in order to not miss the seed. This small seed represents the Kingdom of God. We must pay close attention to God's Kingdom on Earth or we will miss it. Have you been paying close attention to God recently? Instead of asking God why there is a virus we may get more benefit from asking God what do you want me to learn from everything that is going on? In order to not miss what God may be wanting you to know in this moment of society you, and all of us, must pay close attention.

Questions to Consider

1. Why is it hard for us to give our full attention to God sometimes?
2. Do you think God will speak to you? Has He spoke to you before? How?
3. Have you asked God what he wants you to know right now during the pandemic and racedemic? What is it?

Daily Spiritual Practice

Monday

- Listen to the song “Holy Spirit” by Kari Jobe.

Tuesday

- Read Psalm 40 and reflect for 3 minutes.

Wednesday

- Take time today to ask God what He wants you to know.

Thursday

- Talk with your family or small group leader about what’s been hardest for you during this crisis.

Friday

- Listen to the song “More of You” by Hillsong Young & Free.