

SERMON QUESTIONS



February 01, 2026

Series: A New Beginning

Sermon: Good Reception

Mark 4:21-34

(2nd set of questions)

1. In the parable of the lamp, especially as expressed in Matthew 5, who puts the light under the bushel or bed? What are the “bushels” or “beds” (fears, comforts, complacencies) under which you hide the light of the Gospel? How can you practically put your “lamp on a stand” in your life, social circles and community?
2. What does it mean to “see what you hear”? How does your attention to God’s Word determine the spiritual growth you experience?
3. Why is it significant that the seed grows without the farmer, or you, knowing how (v. 27)? How does this reduce your anxiety about the speed of spiritual growth in yourself and others? Must we be careful not to use this verse to be lazy in the disciplines of our spiritual walk?
4. To the extent the parable of the mustard seed is about growth, how does it encourage trusting God with “small beginnings” in your personal life and ministry?
5. To the extent the parable of the mustard seed illustrates that some within the organized church are false believers, minimizing the importance and meaning of God’s Word, what does it suggest to you about the actual importance of God’s Word and the necessity to strive for God’s intended meaning? How important is God’s Word to you and how is that importance demonstrated by you every day?
6. Why did Jesus use parables to speak to the crowd, and what does this reveal about the necessity of having “ears to hear?”
7. How does the truth that God’s Word is “unstoppable” change your approach to sharing your faith?
8. Which of the three metaphors – a Lamp, a Growing Seed, a Mustard Seed – speaks most to your current spiritual walk? Please describe.
9. How can you balance being a “sower” of the seed with trusting God to produce the harvest?