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**Weekly Letter – 16 June 2024**

**Mark 4.26-34**

### **The mystery of the Divine Kingdom**

Just for a moment, think of yourself standing on a soap-box, (which can be fun!), and begin to explain to the people around you how a monumental and completely new Kingdom could come about. What would you focus on? A hugely powerful and wealthy family/dynasty, a gigantic army, a colossal and towering personality, or perhaps you would concentrate on a cataclysmic event?

You of course know how Jesus explains how God's Kingdom will come about!

Reading Jesus' explanation feels like he is thinking out loud, so let's hear again what he is trying to express to you.

"I know what resources and assets my Father has to create the new and promised Kingdom. I understand that to you, the creation of this Kingdom often seems to be rather vague and nebulous! You are also baffled by a teeny-weeny seed and how it silently and almost imperceptibly sprouts and grows into a beautiful plant or fruit! Well, this is the way my Father brings about the Kingdom!"

Jesus continues, 'I also realize that often God my Father is a mystery to you, (one of the reasons I came down from heaven!). So it's not easy for you to perceive the way he works, or even notice the causes of change. You need to keep in mind, 'this is divine work!'

Now you might be thinking, well, if this is the way He works, you are surplus to requirements! Most definitely not. That will never be the case, for if you do not put your faith in God's future, your world will be poorer and more cramped. But what you do know about seeds is that they need watering, weeding and fertilizing, and therefore you need to continue to grow in holiness, love, faith and hope, as that will give you great joy. So never forget, that God my Father is at work, for 'He is making a road in the desert and rivers in wastelands'.

So hold tight, use each day to seek God's Word, for it speaks to you and in you, and this act will ground you in His truth, and will also guide you into seeing God my Father at work. Or put it this way, 'you are an important light bulb, and your life's work is to remain plugged in'! – Prayer.

Heavenly Father, I ask that you will continue to guide me, so that I will keep my eyes fixed on your new heaven and the new earth. Grant me the love, and a growing sense of hope to care more deeply for your world and its future. Lord I believe your Kingdom will be fully restored, help me in my unbelief. Amen.

***Stephen***

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Linda Woollacott**

**Bible Readings: Genesis 26.2-18: Genesis 28.10-23: Genesis 32.22-31**

**Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Temple, Gowerton**

**Prayers for every household - we will pray for Cecil Street, nos. 111-151**

**Tuesday – 18<sup>th</sup> June - Tea and Chat - 2-4pm – Swansea History Quiz**

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June – Church Meeting – 7pm in Lounge**

### **The Food Pantry at St John's Day Centre**

Volunteers are needed to help cover at the Pantry during July and August while the regular volunteers are on holiday.

The volunteering includes putting donations away on the shelving and helping people to choose what they need when they attend the pantry. If you could volunteer between 12-2pm on a Tuesday a couple of times in those months please get in touch with Adella who can explain more. Thank you.

**We walk by faith, not by sight** (1 Samuel 15.34-16.13: and Psalm 20: Ezekiel 17.22-24 and Psalm 92.1-4,12-15:  
2 Corinthians 5.6-10, (11-13), 14-17: Mark 4.26-34)

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, we seek your mercy and comfort.

In your mercy forgive:

for those times we have been angry with you when our plans have not been realised ;

for those times when we have been angry with others when they have not agreed with our ideas;

for those times when we have demanded signs;

for those times when we have sought just intellectual answers.

In your comfort encourage:

for those times when, again, our plans will not come to fruition;

for those times when, again, there is opposition or apathy to our ideas;

for those times when we are tempted to demand signs;

for those times when we want everything for us is just not right.

By your Spirit help us to walk by faith and not by sight. Amen.

Robert Barthrum (URC Prayer Handbook 2024)

