

RECAP

As you reflect on this last week, what did it look like for you to live as wheat among the weeds?

IDEA 1

Much like the first century Palestinian Jew - we too have created expectations of what the Kingdom of God will be like in our lives, our family, this church, our city.

We need to consider the truth of these statements:

- How we see Jesus shapes what we expect His kingdom to be like.
- How we imagine the Kingdom of God shapes what we expect Jesus to be like.

What 21st century expectations have we created about the Kingdom of God?

What do these expectations tell us about how we see Jesus?

IDEA 2

Using the parable of the mustard seed, Rob shared 4 descriptions that paint a clearer biblical picture of the nature and purpose of the Kingdom of God:

- The Kingdom grows with compassion not coercion
- The Kingdom grows wild and organic.
- The Kingdom is a refuge for all nations.
- The Kingdom unites heaven and earth.

Why do you think the Kingdom grows with compassion and not coercion?

What are some of the ways that we try to control Kingdom growth?

What does it look like for us to relinquish control and embrace God's wild and organic methods of Kingdom growth?

Where have you seen God's Kingdom provide refuge for all nations?

What does it look like for heaven to come to earth in Salem or your sphere of influence?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Before you start this spiritual practice, find a seed(s) at home (apple seed, pepper seed, a seed from your spice rack, etc.) and bring it to your group.

As you look at the seed(s) together, share stories and testimonies of how God has brought more of His Kingdom to the people and places around you.

Where have you been surprised at how God has worked in your spheres of influence?

What seemingly insignificant things have you seen lead to Kingdom growth in these places?

After you've shared, turn these stories into prayer and petition as you praise God for these things and ask for more of his Kingdom to come in spheres of influence God has placed you.

APPLICATION

The Kingdom mindset declares - where we've been placed is strategic. Our sphere of influence, our family, our friends, our neighborhoods, schools, work and social spaces - are all significant to God.

Discuss as a group:

What do you think is significant about the place that God has placed you?

How is it strategic to his Kingdom?

What is one step you can take this week to partner with God and see more of His Kingdom come in your sphere of influence?