

The Gospel of Mark  
Kingdom Parables  
Mark 4:21-34

We live in a world of treasure-seeking conspiracy theories. We see movies like *National Treasure* or *Fool's Gold*, and we want to think that maybe there are hidden codes strategically placed by people who lived centuries ago that will lead us to buried treasure. The stories are often genius and captivating, and there most certainly are treasures buried in the depths of the oceans, but not every treasure must be sought after by hidden clues. Some treasure is right in front of us.

1. Light is built into the purpose of the kingdom.
2. Growth is built into the design of the kingdom.
3. Rest is built into the provision of the kingdom.

People who are willing to draw close to Jesus eventually understand who Jesus is and what He is really all about. Only as we walk in communion with Him can we ever hope to understand His desire and will for us. God has condescended (humbled) Himself to live the perfect life on our behalf and defeat the death we all deserve. What He has done, He has done plainly. By faith in what has been plainly revealed, He takes our sin and imputes to us His righteousness. The kingdom awaits those who have placed their trust not in what Christ may do, but in what Christ has already done.

For further consideration

If Jesus is the light of the world, then what is our responsibility as Jesus followers? tl;dr is social media shorthand for "too long; didn't read." When it comes to the Bible in general and the teachings of Jesus in particular is that your default disposition? How can you cultivate a love and understanding of God's Word? How does communion with Christ and His people advance your understanding of Scripture? Why is it reassuring to recognize that God intends for His kingdom to grow slowly but surely? How is the parable of the mustard seed encouraging to those who are involved in working and praying for the expansion of the kingdom? When it comes to the explanations of Jesus' teachings, what advantage do believers have today over those who first followed Jesus?