



# Daily Reflections

**June 17, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Mark 4: 26-34**

Jesus said to the crowds:

“This is how it is with the kingdom of God;  
it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land  
and would sleep and rise night and day  
and through it all the seed would sprout and grow,  
he knows not how.

Of its own accord the land yields fruit,  
first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.  
And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once,  
for the harvest has come.”

He said,

“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God,  
or what parable can we use for it?

It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground,  
is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.

But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants  
and puts forth large branches,  
so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”

With many such parables

he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.

Without parables he did not speak to them,

but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

# **Our Scripture Reflection**

When Our Lord describes the Kingdom of God He never gives specific and exact details. Why? Because the Kingdom is beyond our imagining. It is more of an event, a happening than a place. Such is the case with the two parables that Our Lord uses to describe it in today's Gospel. What do they tell us about God's Kingdom? It starts out small and mysteriously and grows without our awareness. We recognize the Kingdom when it is present....it just happens. That's how Grace works.

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## **Food for your Journey**

Paul Harvey, a radio host who died in 2009, delivered the speech at an FFA convention in 1978. His speech began as a continuation of the Genesis creation narrative referring to the actions God took on the eighth day. In it, Harvey stated that God needed a caretaker for the land he created. The speech continues with God expressing the characteristics needed by the person he is creating:

I need somebody with arms strong enough to wrestle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild; somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to await lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies, then tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon, and mean it.

Multiple passages setting out characteristics of the sort end with the same refrain, by which the speech is now known: "So God made a farmer."

Harvey's "So God Made a Farmer" speech was characterized, according to The Atlantic, by its "folksy timbre." The New York Times spoke further on elements of his speaking style in its 2009 obituary: "His style was stop-and-go, with superb pacing and silences that rivaled Jack Benny's. He spoke directly to the listener, with punchy sentences, occasional exclamations of 'Good heavens!' or 'Oh, my goodness!' and pauses that squeezed out the last drop of suspense: the radio broadcaster's equivalent of the raised eyebrow or the knowing grin." Bob Greene described the opening phrase of the speech as "seemingly simple, and devastatingly direct."

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Heavenly Father, May Your Kingdom come as Your will is done on earth as it is in Heaven. May my eyes be so blessed as to see Your glory. Amen