

## A Prayer for Father's Day

by Scotty Smith

*For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom all fatherhood in heaven and on earth derives its meaning. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Eph. 3:14-19*

Dear heavenly Father, on this Father's Day, it's an unparalleled joy to acknowledge that *you* are the Father we've always longed for and needed. Our most loving and engaged fathers have been a wonderful hint of what it means to be your beloved children; but they could *never* be to us what you alone can be. And our most broken and irresponsible fathers cannot rob our hearts of the joys we find in knowing you and crying, Abba, Father.

Thank you for adopting us, through the finished work of Jesus. Thank you for freeing us from our slavery to sin and our orphan-like ways; and for giving us the Spirit of Sonship, a secure place in your family, and an inheritance that can never spoil or fade, kept in heaven for us. Thank you for promising to complete the work you began in us, and for always, and only, disciplining us in love, even when it hurts.

Father, thank you for grace to forgive our earthly fathers who failed us, including those who broke our trust, hurt us, and misrepresented you to us. Continue to heal us and free us from the lingering effects.

And thank you for grace to acknowledge *our* failings as parents, and for promising us the strength we need to humble ourselves before our children, and to trust you to write stories of redemption in our families. Please do so, Father, to your glory.

Lastly, Father, we thank you for the spiritual fathers you've given us—the "dads of grace" who help us discover more and more of the multi-dimensional love of Christ. So very Amen we pray, in Jesus' merciful and mighty name.



June 19, 2022

10:30 A.M.

## The Hiddenness of the Kingdom



*Mark 4:30-31*

*And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth,"*

# Order of Service

## Announcements

### Welcome

### Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

### Call To Worship

### Hymn of Praise

"The Lord Almighty Reigns (Psalm 93)". . .Althoff/Kauflin/Stiff

### Prayer of Invocation

**Affirmation of Faith:** The Heidelberg Catechism\*, Q. #60

### Song of Praise

"10,000 Reasons(Bless the Lord)". . . . . Redman/Myrin

### Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- **God's Renewal**-----

**The Law of God:** Deuteronomy 10:16-18, The Message

### Public Confession

### Silent Confession

**Assurance of Pardon and Comfort:** John 11:25-26

**Song of Renewal:** "Clean". . . . . Natalie Grant

----- **God's Grace**-----

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 4:21-34

### Prayer

### The Sermon

"The Hiddenness of the Kingdom"

### Song of Communion

"When I Survey". . . . . Traditional

### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### Prayer of Approach

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

### Holy Communion

----- **God's Blessing**-----

### Parting Hymn

"Greater Than We Can Imagine". . . . . Mark Altrogge

### Benediction

\*The Heidelberg Catechism originated in Germany in 1562 under the authority of Elector Frederick III, who ruled the most important German province, the Palatinate, from his castle in Heidelberg. He commissioned the preparation of a new catechism for guiding ministers and teachers in instructing people in the Christian faith.

## The Conclusion

*Mark 4:33-34 (ESV)*

*With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.*

**One must come to Jesus as a disciple and listen carefully to receive explanations and a deeper understanding. Jesus uses parables to plumb the spiritual perception of the audience, because he knows that a Messiah who dies can only be perceived through a rare spiritual discernment. The message that Christ crucified conquers the world remains a scandalous and foolish riddle to those who are unable to hear the word with understanding and refuse to gather around Jesus as a disciple.<sup>3</sup>**

## Outcomes

1. These parables should instill confidence that overcomes despair.
2. These parables make the case that the seed's success does not depend on our feeble efforts.
3. The parables encourage patient faith.

<sup>1</sup>MacArthur, J. (2015). *Mark 1-8* (pp. 215-216). Moody Publishers.

<sup>2</sup>MacArthur, J. (2015). *Mark 1-8* (p. 220). Moody Publishers.

<sup>3</sup>Garland, D. E. (1996). *Mark* (p. 181). Zondervan Publishing House.

## Notes

that God would bless their work, not only in accordance with their level of effort (their standard of measure) but even far beyond (more will be given you besides). As they scatter the seed of the gospel, all believers work expectantly, knowing that their faithfulness to the task will be fruitful and abundantly rewarded in heaven (cf. Luke 6:38).<sup>1</sup>

### The Parable of the Seed Cast on the Earth

*Mark 4:26–29 (ESV)*

*And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”*

The point of this parable is simple: in the same way that the farmer is not the power behind the regeneration of the seed, so also the evangelist is not the power behind the regeneration of souls. The task of saving sinners does not rest on our shoulders.

### The Parable of the Mustard Seed

*Mark 4:30–32 (ESV)*

*And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”*

**A characteristic of fruitful hearers is that they proclaim the gospel with confidence. Because God is the one who blesses His Word and creates spiritual life, believers can fulfill their evangelistic calling with the certainty of knowing that they are part of an enterprise that cannot fail (cf. Matt. 16:18).**

The parable of the mustard seed also anticipated the reality that the kingdom of God (a reference to the sphere of salvation) would bless the whole world. The mustard plant, fully grown, provided shelter to **the birds of the air** who **can nest under its shade.**<sup>2</sup>

In the church age, that blessing extends to the nations through the influence of Christians around the globe. When believers walk faithfully, they are a blessing to those around them. The corporate influence of the church has benefited the world in many ways: spiritually, economically, culturally, and morally.

## Upcoming Events

**Monday, June 20—Wednesday, June 22 Jim Thorpe Camping Trip** for Youth and Young Adults: grade 6—age 30.  
See Deana for more information.

**Saturday, July 2 6:00 P.M. Prayer Dinner**  
at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Bring in your Redner's receipts. For every \$5000 in receipts, Grace Covenant Youth Group receives \$50.00 back from Redner's. Please give them to Barb Knarr.

### Crossing Cultures International David and Mindy Nelson



#### India

We praise the Lord for the graduation of 20 students. Pray that they will apply their training to help make mature reproducing disciples of Jesus. May they go on to train core leaders who serve in various ministries of their churches.

#### Vietnam

Pray that all CCI classes will start teaching in person because CCI Vietnam prioritizes meeting with their students, former students, and event participants of our seminars. This allows them to share their lives and encourage each other in ministry.

Pray for the new class for Jarai church leaders and a new class for the Hmong tribe that will start in the next couple of months. Pray that these students will study effectively and be equipped with the knowledge and practical skills.

#### Supreme Court Decision

Both **Genesis Women's Clinic** and **Birthright of Pottstown** are Pregnancy Care Centers in Pottstown that are in need of our prayers especially now. As we all await the ruling from the Supreme Court on the Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization Case which could overturn Roe v. Wade and return to the States the right to have their own abortion laws, our Centers across the country have been under attack. At the time of writing this note, 23 Pregnancy Care Centers across the County have been vandalized. Recently, over this past weekend, Hope Pregnancy Center in Philadelphia was attacked by vandals.

Pray especially for the protection of Pregnancy Care facilities in Pottstown and across the USA as they work to protect not only the buildings where they serve but the clients, the babies, and the staff.

## Prayer/Praise. . . . . June 19, 2022

- Pray for Lorraine Blanski's sister-in-law, Beth, who is scheduled to have lumpectomy surgery on July 5<sup>th</sup> and radiation afterwards. Pray for a successful surgery and God's healing for Beth.
- Pray for Deana Deichert, who has Covid and had to stay in Montana for an extra week. Pray for a quick recovery for Deana.
- Praise that Mike Row came home from the hospital on June 8, 2022, and his surgery was successful. Mike had a tube removed from his back this past week and goes back to the hospital on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to have the stent removed. Pray for healing.
- Praise that Austin, the stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece, is doing well after his accident. Austin is at a camp this weekend with former St. Christopher's patients, and his doctors said that it would be a great experience for him mentally. Pray for continued healing and mental health and God's strength for Austin.
- Pray for Anthony and Janet Conte, parents of Mandi Yensan's friend, Christine. Anthony is in the hospital with fluid buildup around his heart and needs a new valve. Pray for Anthony's surgery to be scheduled soon.
- Pray for Leah, daughter of John Kurtyka and cousin of Lorraine Blanski, who is struggling with drug addiction and is away at an 8-month drug rehabilitation program. Pray for God's strength, peace, and comfort for Leah.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli's grandnephew, Liam, who is 1-year old and has a rare disease called PDHA-1. He will need a feeding tube. Pray for God's wisdom for Liam's doctors and strength and comfort for Liam's and Terry's families.
- Pray for Steve Simons neighbor, Mrs. McCabe, who has dementia. Pray for God's strength for the McCabe family during this difficult time.
- Praise that Dalton Weider, father of Lulu Bocci's friend, Mary, is now in rehab learning to talk, walk, and move his muscles. Pray for his progress and his family as they support him.
- Pray for Igor Parfeniuk, a North Coventry police officer with Matt Deichert. Pray for Igor's sister and her family, as they are still living in Ukraine.
- Praise that Dawn Rhoads, Igor's mother-in-law, who had her 4<sup>th</sup> cancer treatment on April 25<sup>th</sup>, is doing much better. Pray for continued healing for Dawn.
- Praise that Donna Jenkins' friend, Debbie Breyer, is home from the nursing home. Pray for Debbie's husband, who is in the hospital with undetermined issues. Pray for God's healing.
- Pray for Nic Collins. The new school is not being launched as their director stepped down. Pray that Nic receives an internship with the church.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Praise that Evan can be off the breathing machine for the hours he is awake. Pray for God's healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment

## Message

### The Hiddenness of the Kingdom

Mark 4:21–34

#### Introduction

**The parable of the soils emphasized** the importance of being a fruitful hearer by distinguishing the good soil from the bad. In this passage (4:21–34), Jesus articulated three additional parables that expand on that theme. The Lord indicated that understanding the parable of the soils was key to understanding these later parables (v. 13).

#### The Parable of the Lamp

*Mark 4:21–23 (ESV)*

*And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? <sup>22</sup>For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. <sup>23</sup>If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”*

**The point of Jesus' analogy is clear: Those who have received the light of the gospel are not to conceal it; rather they are to let it shine for others to see.**

How are you doing with getting your light out from under the bed and shining the gospel light?

**The evangelistic mandate did not end with the apostles.**

It began with them and has fallen on all believers, in every generation of church history.

#### The Parable of the Measure

*Mark 4:24–25 (ESV)*

*And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. <sup>25</sup>For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”*

**With the measure you use, it will be measured to you; and more will be added to you.”**

**At harvesttime, the farmer could expect to get back from his field only what he had put into it. He would reap what he had sown.**

What incomparable motivation that should be for all believers. Jesus promised