

Introduction:

- The Word works for those who work the Word.
- Acts 12:18-24
 - Acts 12:24 (NLT): *"Meanwhile, the word of God continued to spread, and there were many new believers."*
 - "Meanwhile" Luke uses this phrase more than any other NT writer.
 - Gives us the feeling of acceleration, movement. Momentum-forward motion with mass. IE. Even on a most "messed up" day in Christ something is going forward!
 - Gives us the understanding that while all this is happening something else is going on. IE. Some of our most popular Christian figures of our faith have never been heard of! Proof that while all this stuff is going on God is moving!
 - Gives us understanding of "simultaneously"...while this/that! The two are laid over each other.

I. Context

- A. Politics
 1. King angry with people
 2. Politics in church
 3. Politics in ministry
- B. Need
 1. People with fear of starving. Light fear. But it didn't stop the Gospel.
 2. Persecution often involves hunger. It forces people to comply.
 3. People sucking up to get something. People in ministry suck up to leaders to get a personal need fulfilled. They don't know who they are so they try to fill that identity w someone else.
 4. Fear of not having. Poverty mindset. In the midst, the Kingdom still advances.
- C. Celebrity worship
 1. Vs 22. Great ovation! "The voice of a god, not of a man!" Broad is the road that leads to destruction...and many find it!
 2. Delegation sent to flatter
 3. King enjoying his own press.
- D. Death of leader
 1. Celebrity rising and dyeing!
 2. Sudden and tragic death of leader. Eaten by worms.
 3. Death of a leader-James death didn't stop word from spreading. Peters death didn't stop word from spreading. With or without you the Word is spreading so get over yourself and work with the Word!
- E. Everyone is caught up in these things, but it doesn't matter to the Kingdom. Who are you O mountain? That you can stand before King Jesus!
 1. The Kingdom does not care who is president.
 2. The Kingdom does not care who is celebrity.
 3. The Kingdom does not care about what national leader dies.

4. The Kingdom does not care which football or soccer team wins.
5. The Kingdom cares about seed being sown! In light of all these things...MEANWHILE!!!

II. Meanwhile! Why does the Word Spread?

- A. Spread-Greek word means: to grow to the limit, to attain great power, to achieve the highest position!
- B. John 6:63 Life is in the Word. Just like a seed has life.
 1. Zoe! Anointed!
 2. Mark 4:26-27 (NLT): *Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens.*
 3. Night or day, sleep or awake...meanwhile the seed grows.
- C. Persecution causes:
 1. The scattering of the Word. This is the job of the sower. When the church ceases to do its job of scattering the seed. The Sower Himself forces the scattering!
 - a) Acts 8:1, the church was scattered.
 - b) Acts 8:4; 11:19 They preached where they were scattered!
 2. Causes the incubation of the Word while in the 'hot bed' of its hell.
 - a) Acts 4:19 obey you or God? We cant stop telling.
 - b) Acts 4:29 hear their threats and give us boldness in proclaiming!
 - c) Acts 5:41 they rejoiced God counted them worthy to suffer! Remember they ran before. Now they have a second chance!
 3. Causes resolve to be formed in the true soldiers of the cross. Blood and Glory...Boer War. On St Helena prison camp, rugby game.
- D. Awe! The message was clear in the heart of the committed. Awe...more scared of God than what man can do! The word for awe is Phobos-fear.
 1. Jesus, the Son of God is alive!
 2. "Awe" caused the news to spread! Luke 1:65 (NLT): *Awe fell upon the whole neighborhood, and the news of what had happened spread throughout the Judean hills.* Awe causes the spread of the word!
- E. Power causes the Word to spread. Luke 4:14-15 (NLT): *Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. 15 He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.*
 1. There is no power like the Holy Ghost!
 2. Power got my attention—Pastor Benny Hinn called me out and prayed for me. Tried to hire me. I said no. Prophets read my mail. Power got my attention!
- F. Structure causes the Word to spread!
 1. The twelve called a meeting to set up structure to free them to preach and pray. Acts 6:4
 2. Deacons were chosen (men full of faith and Holy Spirit!).
 3. They were commissioned and immediately began.
 4. Vs7 The message continued to spread.

- G. Miracles cause the Word to spread! Acts 9:42
 - 1. Peter raises Tabitha from the dead.
 - 2. Vs. 41 when the dead are presented alive the word spreads!
- H. When devils manifest fear of the Lord increases. Acts 19:17 and 20
 - 1. People believe when the authority of God is present.
 - 2. Jesus I know and Paul I know
 - 3. When demons are around, it is a good time to know God and be known by Him.

III. Mark 4:26-29 Seed grows secretly.

- A. It is mysterious. Mk 4:26. The seed sprouts and grows and the farmer has no clue how.
 - 1. It is not by human intervention that the seed grows. It is spontaneous!
 - 2. In the parable of sower the focus is on the resistance to the seed. In the parable of the seed the focus is the power of the seed released through the scattering.
 - 3. Our ultimate interest is the purpose for which the seed was sown...Harvest!
 - 4. Watch! The proclamation is mysterious, and irresistible, and it brings the harvest near!
- B. With God the end is always in sight! We can't forget that.
 - 1. It is small and insignificant in light of everything else. Mk 4:31
 - a) Meanwhile
 - b) What looks like nothing is huge in the eyes of God...because H sees the end!
 - 2. It becomes the largest in the garden. Mk 4:3
 - a) This parable is concerned with the enigmatic present manifestation of the Kingdom as embodied in Jesus' person. Its appearance may be characterized by weakness and apparent insignificance—but remember the mustard seed. NICNTMark
 - b) This word possesses the power which one day will make all things new.