



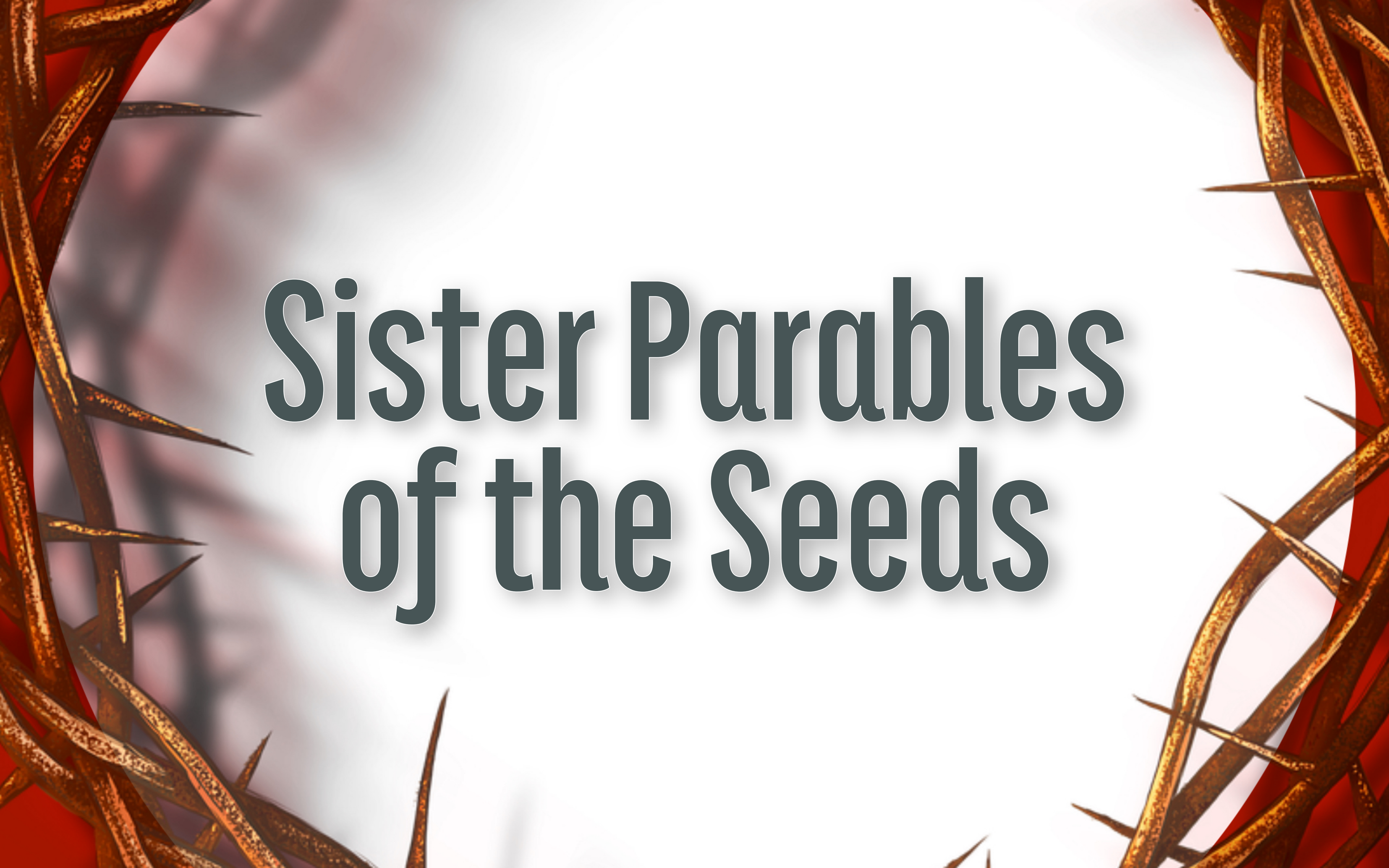
# A Growing Kingdom

He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup> As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup> Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup> With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. <sup>34</sup> He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Mark 4:26–34

The image features a central text overlay on a light, hazy background. The text is framed by a decorative border of golden, thorny branches, likely representing the crown of thorns, which is visible in the corners and along the sides. The text is in a dark, serif font with a subtle drop shadow.

# Sister Parables of the Seeds

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He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters **seed** on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and **grows**, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup> As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

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A crown of thorns is positioned around the perimeter of the image, with its sharp, golden-brown thorns pointing outwards. The background is a soft, out-of-focus scene of a crowd of people, with a bright light source creating a hazy, ethereal atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by the warm tones of the thorns and the soft, muted colors of the background.

# A Growing Kingdom



# The Kingdom Begins Small & Seemingly Insignificant

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Mark 4:26, 30–31



# The Kingdom Will Grow, Become Fruitful and Great

Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, **the seed sprouts and grows**, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil **produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head...** <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, **it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants**, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.” (Mark 4:27–28, 32)



While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. <sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth... <sup>44</sup>“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. <sup>45</sup> This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain...

Daniel 2:34–35, 44–45



# The Kingdom Grows by the Power of God and His Word

Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.

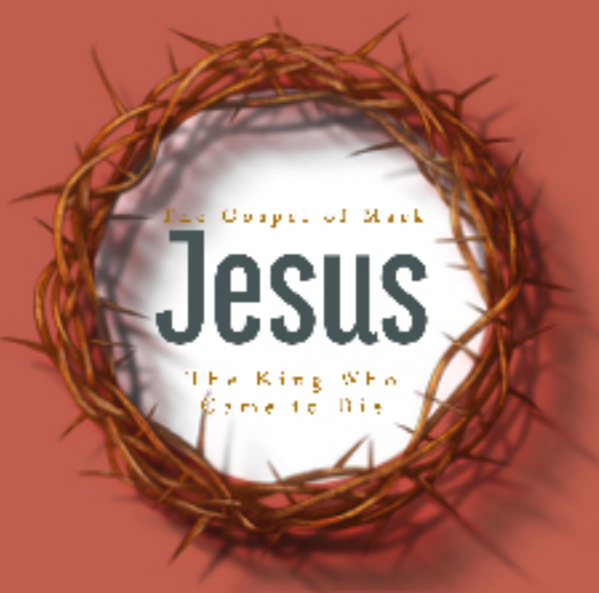
Mark 4:27–28



# God Gives the Growth - and Gets the Glory!

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

1 Corinthians 3:6–7



A crown of thorns, rendered in a golden-brown color, frames the text. The thorns are sharp and intertwined, creating a circular border around the central text. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white and light blue, suggesting a bright, possibly outdoor setting.

The Gospel of Mark

# Applying

The Word

# Peace

Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.

Mark 4:27–28



# Patience

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

James 5:7–8





# Confidence

It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.

Mark 4:31–32



# The Table of the Kingdom

