



EPISODE: 397

TITLE: **How Jesus Explained Life and Growth in the Kingdom**

After the good news of the Kingdom takes root and changes your own heart, Jesus promises it will expand outward to include others. We are not called to build elaborate, structured programs and systems and then expect lots of people to come on in and fill them up for us. Instead, we are to plant small (gospel) seeds that will eventually grow into changed lives, changed families, and changed communities.

Here are three key things to believe and consider about living a Kingdom lifestyle...

1. **Embrace the Kingdom pattern of 'small is big'.** The idea that everything we endeavor to do in life or ministry has to start off huge and with lots of attendance is broken. It was falsely reinforced by our own churches for the last 50 years and goes against Jesus' teaching and example. He started off with only a dozen men and transformed the world! *"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin..." ~Zechariah 4:10*
2. **God is not measuring your performance, numbers, and growth** and basing his love for you on that! Jesus' life, death, and resurrection has accomplished the work of restoring us to a right relationship with our Father that never has to—or can be—earned. Believe that your beginnings and re-beginnings are all a part of how God is shaping your heart of trust for him as he accomplishes his mission in and through your life.
3. **Faithfully live out the small missional rhythms you are learning that Jesus promised leads to big growth and reproduction.** Don't try everything you read or hear about discipleship and missional living all at once. Continually ask the Spirit, "What next, Lord?" and live obediently to what you hear the Spirit saying. Jesus' pattern and promise is true for you too!

Thanks for listening... we'll see you in the next episode!

*~Caesar*