

## Environment of Growth

### Mark 4:26-32

#### Kingdom of God

- Kingly rule of God in the lives of people and nations
- The place or the life where God reigns
- How much better would your life be, if God always reigned?
- **John 18:36** What did Jesus mean by saying that His kingdom was not of this world?
- Jesus primary teaching concerned how to live successfully in God's kingdom (the place where God reigns)

#### The goal or purpose of the Kingdom of God is for your growth!

- What areas of your life need the most growth?
- Are you putting yourself in a conducive environment for growth?

#### Environment must be conducive to growth:

- High-quality seed
- Proper soil condition (temperature, mix of loam, clay, sand, nitrogen, potassium, etc.)
- Ample amounts of sun & water
- Lack of weeds
- Timely pruning

Growing is not hard. You must take initiative to pursue right conditions.

#### Seed = God's word

- 1 Corinthians 3:6-9
  - What does it mean to "plant" and to "water" God's Word?
  - If you plant and water, what will result?
- Ephesians 4:11-16
  - What is the primary job of the prophets, evangelists, pastors, etc.?
  - According to these verses, what must you do to grow spiritually?

#### Soil = attitude and response to seed planted

#### Sun & water = church services, Grow groups

#### Pruning

- Train trees to avoid problems later
- Neglected trees are more subject to disease and breakage from fruit loads and storms
- **John 15:1-8**
  - What does it mean to be pruned by the Lord?
  - Is pruning pleasant? What is the result of proper pruning?