

## **The parallel structure of the two seed parables**

### **Mark 4:26-32**

#### **The parable of the growing seed**

**Introduction:** <sup>26</sup>And he said,

**A kingdom comparison:** "The kingdom of God is as if

**Seed/on the ground:** a man should scatter seed on the ground.

**Contrast - farmer has no role in the growth process, seed grows by itself:**

<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 parable of the mustard seed**

**Introduction:** <sup>30</sup>And he said,

**A kingdom comparison:** "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it?"

**Seed/on the ground:** <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground,

**Contrast - smallest seed in the beginning, largest plant in the end:** 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."