

# Jesus 101

## “Grace Thoughts”



IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE,  
YOU ARE FREE INDEED!  
JOHN 8:36

A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

*“The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil . . . and the seed sprouts and grows— how, he himself does not know.” –Mark 4:26,27*

The teacher asked us to place a bean in the middle of a jar and secure it with blotting paper. We were to water it, and the blotting paper would absorb the moisture. And it did sprout with no outside help! For me as a child, the whole process of watching the shoots and the roots developing right in front of my eyes was both exciting and mysterious! The power of the seed to sprout and grow is one of the mysteries of nature that carries God’s magnificent fingerprint.

Jesus used this example to convey the mysterious power contained within the seed of the gospel. In a very short parable recorded only in the Gospel of Mark (Mark 4:26-29), Jesus explains that the kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground, and whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts on its own, and the man does not know how. The seed has a mysterious power of its own to sprout and grow, producing crops: “the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head” (verse 28). This parable emphasizes how the gospel proclamation contains, within itself, the power of God to germinate and mature. We do well to study and train to share the good news of Jesus, yet ultimately it is the power of God to bring about salvation that will take root and grow in a person’s heart. Many parents contact me to share their concern about their adult children, who seem uninterested in spiritual matters. I always point out that God is even more interested than we are in our children’s salvation, and that the Holy Spirit has power to grow the gospel seed in their hearts. The same is true for all of us who feel unfit and unqualified to share the treasures of the gospel with others. Always remember that God adds His mysterious power to our feeble human efforts. We can’t always see the extent of what is happening, yet great things are fashioning themselves together without our understanding. The proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ is never in vain. Trust that the seed of the good news of eternal salvation through His blood will grow, by itself, through the power of God’s Spirit!

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins! Daily Devotional*, p. 286