

# THE JOURNEY

THE PURSUIT OF CHRISTLIKENESS

PART 1

## Small Beginnings – Big Endings

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### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

- Start washing my hands after I use the restroom.
- Stop drinking orange juice after I just brushed my teeth.
- Stop licking frozen flag poles.
- Go back to school to avoid paying my student loans.
- Only eat white snow.
- Claim all my pets as dependents on my taxes.

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### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

- Watch more cute and cuddly kitten videos on YouTube.
- Switch my username to "password" and my password to "username" to make each a lot harder for hackers to figure out.
- Find a more accurate scale.
- Save some money for a rainy day. That way I can shop online instead of having to go to an actual store.

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### MARK 4:26-34

*And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it?"*

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**MARK 4:26-34**

*"It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 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." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.*

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**1 THE KINGDOM STARTS SMALL**

*And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground."*

**MARK 4:26 (ESV)**

*And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth."*

**MARK 4:30-31 (ESV)**

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**1 THE KINGDOM STARTS SMALL**

*Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."*

**LUKE 17:20-21 (ESV)**

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## 1 THE KINGDOM STARTS SMALL

*"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin."*

**ZECHARIAH 4:10**

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## 2 THE KINGDOM GROWS LARGE

*"He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear."*

**MARK 4:27-28 (ESV)**

*"Yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches."*

**MARK 4:32 (ESV)**

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## 2 THE KINGDOM GROWS LARGE

In the DNA of the seed is the design of the plant and in the **DNA of the gospel** is the **design of the Christian**.

*"Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God."*

**1 PETER 1:23 (ESV)**

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## 2 THE KINGDOM GROWS LARGE

*"I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God."*

**EPHESIANS 1:16-17 (NLT)**

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### GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

- 100 A.D.** 181 million people on earth, 500,000 born again Christians. Ratio of 360 to 1.
- 1000 A.D.** 270 million people on earth, 1 million born again Christians. Ratio 269 to 1.
- 1500 A.D.** 425 million people on earth, 5 million born again Christians. Ratio 84 to 1.
- 1900** 1.6 billion people on earth, 40 million born again Christians. Ratio of 40 to 1.

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### GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

- 1950** 2.5 billion people on earth, 80 million born again Christians. Ratio of 30 to 1.
- 1980** 4.5 billion people on earth, 275 million born again Christians. Ratio of 15 to 1.
- 1990** 5.2 billion people on earth, 500 million born again Christians. Ratio 9 to 1.
- 2010** 6.9 billion people on earth, 800 million born again Christians. Ratio of 8.5 to 1.

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### GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

Globally the church is growing by 80,000 people per day.

510 new churches are formed every day.

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## GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

In Africa, Christianity will have grown from **143 million people in 1970** (38% of the continent's population) to **630 million by 2020** (49.3% of the continent's population).

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## GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

In Asia, Christianity is **growing more than twice as fast** as the general population, most through conversions. Asia has seen **the number of Christians double from 1970 to 2010**.

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## GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

In 2015, missionaries to the Islamic world said **more Muslims have converted to Christianity** in the 14 years since 9/11 **than during the entire 14 centuries of Islamic history**.

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## 3 THE KINGDOM BLESSES PEOPLE

*"But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."*

MARK 4:29 (ESV)

*"...So that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."*

MARK 4:32 (ESV)

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WE ARE GOING ON A  
**JOURNEY OF GROWTH**  
THIS YEAR

Personal growth **as believers**

Growth as **a church**

Growth toward **His Kingdom**

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