

## **2 Samuel 12:1-7**

The LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, 'There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. <sup>2</sup> The rich man had very many flocks and herds; <sup>3</sup> but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. <sup>4</sup> Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.' <sup>5</sup> Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, 'As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; <sup>6</sup> he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.'

<sup>7</sup> Nathan said to David, 'You are the man!'

## **Mark 4: 21-25**

He said to them, 'Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? <sup>22</sup> For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. <sup>23</sup> Let anyone with ears to hear listen!' <sup>24</sup> And he said to them, 'Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. <sup>25</sup> For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.'

## **Mark 4:26-34**

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

<sup>30</sup> He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.