

The Parable of the Seed

January 26, 2017

Mark 4:26-29 NASB

26 And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil;

Mark 4:13-14 NASB

13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?"

14 "The sower sows the word."

27 and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows--how, he himself does not know.

28 "The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.

29 "But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

The Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-20) illustrates the different conditions of the heart.

The Parable of the Seed (Mark 4:26-29) illustrates the life and power of the Word of God.

Mark 4:13-20 NASB

13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?"

14 "The sower sows the word.

15 "These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

16 "In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy;

17 and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

18 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,

19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

20 "And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

Lessons from the Parable:

1. **The seed contains in itself the life and power to germinate, propagate and reproduce.**

1 Peter 1:23 NASB

23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

1 John 3:9 NASB

9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV

16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

James 1:18 NASB

18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

2. **The farmer must guard the seed (*plant in the heart of good ground*) but has no power to make the seed grow.**

Proverbs 4:20-23 NASB

20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.

21 Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart.

22 For they are life to those who find them And health to all their body.

23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.

Mark 4:14-20 NASB

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19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

The Word of God comes alive in our hearts in full power through meditation.

Psalm 1:1-4 NASB

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

4 The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.

3. **The life and power inside of the seed is sufficient and able to take us through all stages of spiritual growth to full maturity and harvest of fruit.**

Hebrews 4:9-13 NASB

9 So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

10 For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.

11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

We each see the multitude of our own weaknesses and failures, but we surrender and commit the correction of those faults to the Word of God, alive and working in our hearts.

Only the Word of God can build the character of God in us. Religious and human efforts all fail. Through every season, in every failure and success, in every defeat and victory, the Word continues to work, building God's character in us.

Don't be on the defensive straining to deny temptation (you will always lose), be on the offensive of sowing the Word of God into your heart and mind through study, prayer and meditation.

John 17:17 NASB

17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."

Galatians 5:5 NASB

5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

Isaiah 55:10-12 NASB

10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

12 "For you will go out with joy And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, And all the trees of the field will clap their hands.