

2. Hidden Kingdom ... Mystery, secret

seen in the seeds

seen in the use of Parables

some (disciples) will see, others will not

Romans 14:17

Has the WORD of Θ struck your heart? *Augustine*

3. Potent Word of Kingdom

Potency of seeds ... in spite of soils,
in abundance of Harvest

Illustrated

4. Kingdom of Θ ... Word faces hostility

Devil *vs. 12*

Flesh

World

»»» Kingdom of Θ is under attack!

5. Kingdom of Θ will Prevail ... WORD Bear Fruit!

Seed $\circ \circ$ \rightarrow Fruitful Harvest in lives \rightarrow
End of the Age 

Illustrated

Will the WORD of Θ , Word of \oplus , bear fruit in you? *Capon*

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what way does this parable reveal the "left-handed power" of the Kingdom of God (power that looks like weakness) challenge the "right handed power" ("use the force you need to get the result you want") of our world.
Does understanding and embracing the left-handed power of God's kingdom come easy for you? Hard? Why?
2. Discuss how this Parable reveals God's Kingdom as (1) catholic (universal), (2) mysterious (hidden), (3) potent (like a seed), (4) opposed by hostile forces and (5) fruitful.
3. Discuss how the Word of God, Christ Himself as the ultimate Word, has been like a seed planted in your life and is bearing fruit.
Pray for each other that you would abide in Christ and bear more fruit.

GIVING

Redeemer Offerings for 2017

February total: \$18,424

Actual YTD: \$43,205

Target YTD: \$58,500

Net Difference: \$-15,295

2017 Target Budget: \$338,000

2017 Target reflects the Session's hope for giving in 2017 based on current giving and needs. Thank you for giving so cheerfully and faithfully.

3 In Parables we see Jesus unique, particular teaching style ▶ "standing right before Jesus"
Joachim Jeremias

Why? So what?

Xtian familiarity w. parables but often miss their radical, revolutionary message
"secrets of the Kingdom of Θ "

Secular Very important to peel off the cultural, social, familial, generational accretions to Xtian message... Jesus' parables, this is it!

So What is it?

① CENTRAL MESSAGE OF KINGDOM OF Θ

≡≡ To you it has been given to know the secrets of the Kingdom of Θ but for others they are in parables, so that "seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand."

✓ Kingdom of Θ , Θ 's reign in Scripture, and future restoration ▶ **≡≡**

✓ How will Θ do this? ↗

✓ Jew's Messianic expectation + our world's answer = "right handed power"
Robert Farrar Capon... "use the force you need to get the result you want"

✓ Jesus answer = "Left handed power" (Luther)
Capon...

✓ Left handed power seen in Parable of Sower that (1) invites investigation + longing, (2) warns subtly, (3) cloaks in mystery. **Birthday Story**

Saying? The way the world thinks, works, lives and the Kingdom of Θ are utterly distinct, different...

➡➡ Every parable calls for an "answer on the spot"
Jeremias

② CHARACTERISTICS OF THE KINGDOM OF Θ

1. Universal Kingdom... inclusive, worldwide, catholic

≡≡≡ Sower... seed... soils ▶ Word of Θ , Christ the ultimate Word, is spread and is at work everywhere, always, for all

Capon

Illustrated...