

Shining, Growing, and Calming

Mark 4:21-40

Pray

The crowds of people that were now following Jesus had grown to the point

- that Jesus was forced to teach from a small boat while his listeners
 - stood on the shore.

he made the boat his pulpit and he would project his voice

- not to just hundreds but thousands

And during his teaching, Jesus used parables.

- A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
 - **It's a common illustration that helps illuminate spiritual truth.**

The first parable that we looked at was the parable of the sower,

- We saw that the seed that was sown represented the word of God.
 - And the four different types of soil on which the seed fell
 - represented those who heard the word of God
 - and the condition of their heart.
 - there was the hard heart
 - there was the shallow heart
 - there was the worldly distracted heart
 - and there was the good fruitful heart

Jesus challenged each one of us with how we will receive the word of God

- some of us have hard Rocky Hard Hearts & the word of God never really penetrates

Jesus described another case where the word of God gets chokes out by the weeds

- of the distractions of this world

and then Jesus explained what happens when the seed lands on good ground

- it Bears a fruitful harvest

We learned that if our hearts are hard then let God plow it if it's Rocky

- let God weed your heart & make it soft fertile soil

²¹ Also He said to them, "Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand?" ²² For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.

You don't light a lamp and then hide it under a box or bed

- its like how all the lights in a house are up at highest point to share the most light but if you put it on the ground and then put a box over it or put it under the bed
- that Lantern could be shining just as bright but nobody can see it

God says I want my word out there shining bright not being covered

- I want the word to get out
 - we have a responsibility to get God's truth out not to hide it
- think of yourself as a scientist in a research laboratory and you discover a cure
- for a life-threatening disease well what are you going to do?
 - just keep it in the laboratory, no you have an obligation get that word out here's something that can save lives that can help others

if God has done something good in your life then Let It Shine out to others

- its not good to be a secret under cover Christian!

Its not good to be the Christians who put their light on a dimmer.

let it be **broadcasted** out let God's truth in your life **radiate** so that everybody can see it

- the meaning of this parable is The Gospel was never intended to be kept hidden,
 - Our responsibility is to communicate the light of the Gospel to the world.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light shine before men, that when they see your good works, they may glorify your Father who is in heaven.

when you read through the Bible several things are connected to light.

First of all, light is often related to our witness in the world.

- Jesus said, **you are the light of the world. You're like a city that's set upon a hill that cannot be hidden.**

Paul said in **Philippians 2:14-15**, **do all things without Complaining and disputing.** Why is that? It says here **that you may become blameless, harmless children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation among whom you shine as lights in the world.** So light is attached to our witness within this world.

- We want our light to shine so that people can see Jesus.

But also light is often attached to and linked to God's word likened to light.

- **Psalms 119:105** says, **your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**
 - The word of God illuminates the direction
 - in which the Christian is supposed to walk.
 - It gives us insight into where the Lord is leading.

Gods Word shines into darkness, it exposes what's in a heart & the truth

Gods Word is like a lighthouse set in a place where ships can follow the light,

- lest they be dashed into the rocks.
 - They can see that light and it helps guide them

There are so many today who walk around directionless, but we have the light.

let us be those people like a lighthouse that can direct people out of darkness

- into the safety of a harbor where they can find the hope that's found in Christ.

we're to be that Beacon of Hope that brings the truth to a dark and dying world

²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." ²⁴ Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. ²⁵ For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

I love how Jesus said **take heed what you hear**

- we need to be so careful about our spiritual diet what we take in
- some Christians aren't careful & they live their Christian Life on a diet of spiritual junk food
- and it really damages their Christian life

○ and its so important churches to teach the whole counsel of God's word
hearing the word is good

- we place great emphasis on hearing the word
 - but it goes far beyond hearing it as its just as important to do it

James 1:22 were to be doers of the word not hearers only

- it's about putting it into practice

in fact Jesus when he was at the Upper Room in **John 13:17** said **if you know these things good but blessed are you if you do them** so knowing the word of God is good

- but there is a blessing in putting it into practice

26 And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should^[1] scatter seed on the ground, **27** and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. **28** For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. **29** But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." **30** Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? **31** It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth, **32** but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."

in the parable of the sower what did seed represent? the word of God vs. 14

- so here we see the same principle
 - Jesus is talking about the word of God being scattered abroad

We can apply this Parable as we go about our daily lives as we get up and go to bed

- just like this farmer did we're sowing the seed
sharing our faith and telling people about Jesus shining brightly for the gospel
 - Our hope is that people see a difference in us, that they see Jesus!
 - but it is God who will cause them to sprout to grow
 - and to come to full salvation

Paul said in **1 Corinthians 3:6** he said **I planted Apollos watered but God gave the increase**

- and this blesses me because it takes the burden off of our shoulders
 - and thinking that we have to get people saved
 - our job is to tell them about Jesus we plant the seed & water
 - but it is God who will bring the increase

the farmer cannot make the seed grow

- All he does is provide the right conditions for the seed to grow
 - and then the seed grows but the seed grows mysteriously

I love the timelapse photography where it grows all the way to a full grown plant

- it doesn't work like that in real life you can't see it growing
 - you just see its progress from day to day

that is how the word of God works in our life it works in a mysterious way

- when you hear the word of God
 - it does a work in you far beyond the intellectual work
 - of saying I understand this better in the Bible
 - but the word of God goes deeper because it does a spiritual work
 - in those who hear it

the Bible says **faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God**

- as you hear the word of God = God is putting more faith in you
 - & changing & transforming us

the Bible talks about the word giving us strength & power

the word cleanses us

the word guides us

the word of God does an invisible spiritual work changing our Hearts

- even though we can't see it
 - we can see its progress in our life over time

just like the little kids takes the bean and puts it in the wet paper towel around it

- and runs back every day to see if it's growing
 - they can't actually see the little thing grow as it happens as they look at it
 - it doesn't look like much is happening

but as the days go on all of the sudden they see that something wonderful has sprung up

- this is how it works in our life with the word of God it's an amazing thing

this is what he says in verse 27 he himself does not know how

- the seed growing is a mystery to the farmer but it does

this is something that gets me excited about the ministry of the word of God

- because it assures me that what we do here on a Sunday Morning
 - has far more effect than simply what we learn about the Bible

I know that God is doing a spiritual work in our hearts increasingly as we get into the word

- the word of God has a mysterious power

when you look at peoples lives who have been in the Word seeking Jesus first

- compared to how it was 5 years ago or 10 years ago and you're amazed
 - at the work that God has done in their life

The Bible tells us in **1 Peter 2:2**, "**As newborn babes desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby.**"

- the word of God is like water to a plant.
 - If it's not watered, it withers and it dies.
 - But if it is consistently watered,
 - then it causes that plant to grow and to develop.

There are some Christians today who are withering in their spiritual walk & not growing

- and the reason is because they never open their Bible.

Its like a baby and kids you feed them milk & food and you don't see the progress instantly

- Until overtime your like how did you get so big!!!

I love the fact that it says that the farmer went to sleep and then he woke up the next day.

- I've done what I can and now I'm just going to close my eyes.
 - I'm going to trust the Lord's going to work while I'm sleeping
- God carries the lion's share. he does the most work, the heavy lifting.

Notice that Jesus said in that verse the person who planted the seed

- can't see how it's growing 'cause it's hidden under the ground?

Growth in our life is usually slow and gradual and it happens in stages

- Jesus said **first it sprouts and then it gets the stalk and then it adds the bud.**
 - **And then the bud turns into the flower and then you get the fruit.**
 - There's no such thing as instant spiritual maturity.

There's no pill you can take that'll make you like Christ. **Growth takes T-I-M-E.**

• And one of the most frustrating things in life is that we get in a hurry when God isn't. And we need to remember the promise of **Philippians 4:6. Be confident of this, that He, who began a good work within you will continue His work until it's finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.**

The best way we can grow to our fullest potential as a Christian

- is to cooperate with God And apply Gods Word to your life

there is so many spiritual laws & principles in this parable...

EVERYTHING STARTS AS A SEED

- Every dream started as a seed of a dream.

Every achievement, every building you see somebody had the seed thought in their mind.

- Your own life started as a seed between your mom and your dad.

anybody can count the seeds in an apple

- but only God can count the number of apples in a single seed.

every seed has exponential potential.

- If you plant one kernel of corn you don't get one kernel of corn back.

You get a corn stalk with eight or 10 ears on it with thousands of kernels on each ear.

- You always get a lot more back than you planted.

redwood trees can grow to nearly 400 feet tall.

- But Redwood seeds, are really quite tiny. And from just a little seed
 - comes a giant redwood.

Job 8:7 "Though your beginning was small, Yet your latter end would increase abundantly."

- That's the exponential power of a seed,

You gotta plant a seed in your life if you're gonna see the results of it,

Another principle is A SEED HAS NO POWER UNTIL IT IS PLANTED

- if you don't plant them, nothing happens.

We need to choose to plant the kind of seeds today that will get us

- to where we want to be tomorrow.

If you don't plant the seed, you're not gonna harvest it tomorrow!

this is the principle in the Old Testament in genesis 47 that Joseph used

- to save two nations from famine. He saved both Egypt and Israel.

You remember there was this terrible famine in the Middle East.

- And for years there was little or no food and nobody had any money to buy it.

Joseph gave them seed & told them "Don't eat all your seed. "

- Use some of your seed to plant next year's crop
 - "so you can feed your family in the future."

This is what planting seeds is all about. Thinking about the future, not short-term thinking,

- even though I can't afford it, I'll charge it = that bad thinking

And it says, the people replied to Joseph, "You saved our lives."

Another principle is **Whatever I plant is what I'll harvest.**

if a farmer plants a field with beans, what crop should he expect? watermelon?" No!

- whatever you plant in life is what you're gonna harvest.

In the story of creation in the Book of Genesis,

- there's a phrase that's repeated over and over and over.
 - It's the phrase after its own kind.

When you plant an apple seed, 100% of the time you're gonna get an apple tree.

When you plant pumpkin seeds, 100% of the time you're gonna get pumpkins.

- we will always reap whatever we sow in life.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

that means it could be a positive blessing or it could be a negative thing in your life.

- Whatever I dish out, I'm gonna get back in life.

Proverbs 16:28 A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.

Hosea 10:12 Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy;
Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the Lord,
Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

Another principle is we HARVEST IN A DIFFERENT SEASON THAN WE PLANT

- Plants take time to grow. In a couple weeks Shawna will start putting
 - the first part of her spring garden into the ground
 - There's no instant maturity, Rome wasn't built in a day.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2. To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

² A time ^[a]to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;

Another principle is the law of multiplication.

- I ALWAYS HARVEST MORE THAN I PLANT
- one apple seed isn't gonna give me one apple back. It's gonna give me a apple tree
- that'll give me hundreds of apples.
 - And so I always get more than I put out.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7, But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows ^[a]bountifully will also reap ^[a]bountifully. ⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of ^[c]necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

So here's my question, it's the question of the day:

- What kind of seeds are you planting? Are you planting anything?
- Are you just coasting along?

Are you planting seeds of love in your marriage?

Are you planting seeds of joy with your children?

- Words are like seeds and we have to choose them wisely.

One of the most important principles is

WHILE WAITING FOR MY HARVEST I MUST BE PATIENT AND NOT GIVE UP

We are often waiting for the seed that we planted months or years ago to harvest,

- We've gotta be patient & not give up.

If you're going to grow bamboo, You cut a piece of bamboo and you bury it in the ground.

- And for the first year you water it and you fertilize it, nothing happens.
- And in second year, you water it and fertilize it, nothing happens.
- And on the third year, you water it and fertilize it, nothing happens.
- The third, the fourth, the fifth, the sixth year you water it, fertilize it, nothing.

Seventh year, you water it and fertilize it. And on the seventh year it sprouts.

- And guess what? Some bamboo can grow three feet overnight.

And some bamboo can grow nine feet in a week. Once it sprouts, boom, it just shoots up.

- We might be in a bamboo situation, you've been watering and nurturing
- and loving and caring And it looks like nothing's happening,

don't be discouraged, be patient.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Does the Bible have anything to say about this, grief and harvesting? Yeah,

Psalms 126:5-6 says this. Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.

³³ And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.

I love how the disciples got alone with Jesus & He explained things to them

- its so important to get away from your phone,
 - away from your computer, just you and Jesus and your Bible
 - and allow him to speak and explain things to you through his word.

There is such a blessing when you can detach yourself from those things

- that are easily distracting and just get alone with Jesus and talk to Him
- Jesus explained these things to those who are willing to listen and be with him.

³⁵ On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." ³⁶ Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was.

always a good idea to bring Jesus in the boat And other little boats were also with Him.

³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸ But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to

Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ Then He arose and rebuked the

wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, [a] be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great

calm. ⁴⁰ But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How [b] is it that you have no

faith?" ⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Here we see Jesus made his way to the other side of the sea of galilee with his disciples.

- He'd been ministering all day. Its Interesting how He was tired.
- he taught with all of his heart with all of his strength he became weary
- And sometimes he caught a bit of sleep wherever he could catch it
 - He needed time to rest. He is fully God and yet fully man.
 - In his humanity, he knew what it was to be tired.
- he knows that there's not going to be any rest for him if he gets off that boat
- and goes on to shore the multitudes will flock around him
- Jesus was like a magnet drawing everybody

The sea of Galilee is a smaller body of water like a lake it's 13 Miles long & 8 miles wide

- It's a little bit larger than McCall Lake which is 2.5 miles width & 8 miles long

Jesus was asleep. And while they're in the midst of this storm, the disciples are fearful.

- In fact, they're so fearful that they think they're going to die in this storm.
- It's interesting Jesus had said to his disciples, before they ever got into the boat,
- he said, "We're going to the other side."
 - He didn't say, "Guys, we're going to go in the middle
 - and then we're going to sink and we're all going to drown.
 - he said, "We're going to the other side." That was his word.
 - If Jesus says, "Let's go over," you're not going to go under.

The disciples forgot his word. And sometimes when we encounter storms in this life,

- we have to remember what God said.
 - We have to remember the promises of God's word

We believe that **all things work together for good for those that love God and are called according to his purpose?**

We believe that **God's going to supply all of my needs according to his riches in Christ Jesus?**

- We believe that he's going to do what he says he's going to do

And all they can think about is we are going to die!!! this is it. They think this is over.

- And what happened when they forgot God's word?
 - They panicked.

the other amazing thing about this, not only did the storm cause them to cry out to God,

- But they got to see the power of God in a way that they never would have seen
 - had they not gone into the storm. They wouldn't have seen it.

the storm provided opportunity for them to see the power of God on display

- in a way they'd never seen it before. So they cry out to Jesus.
 - Jesus wakes up and suddenly, as he wakes up, he stands up
 - and he calms the storm

And he turns to his disciples. And He asks the question, "Why are you so fearful?"

- did you know in the Bible 366 times
 - It says, "Do not fear or do not be afraid." That's one for every day,
 - including leap year.

God must have known that we would be afraid. And so he said, over 366 times

- Don't be afraid.

2 Timothy 1:7

God hadn't given them the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of his sound mind.

Jesus sets fear and faith in contrast when you're fearful you have no faith

- fear is of course the great enemy to Faith
 - when you're living in fear you're not trusting God
 - and Jesus addressed the disciples on this very Point
 - he said why are you so fearful I'm with you

and then they asked this beautiful question

- **who can this be that even the wind and the Sea obey him?**
 - it's God

they saw right there the deity of Jesus in a beautiful Majestic Way

Psalm 89:9 says **You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them.**

Through the storm, they were discovering more about Jesus.

- Lord, I knew you were powerful, but I didn't know you were that powerful.
 - I knew you could provide, but I didn't realize how much of a provider you were

The other gospel writers record that after this, it says they worshiped him in the boat.

They realized Jesus was the only one who could bring peace in their journey

in **John 14:27** Jesus said **Peace I leave with you my peace I give to you**

therefore let not your heart be troubled nor be afraid

- **no matter what kind of storm we're going through in life**

Jesus can give you his peace that **Philippians 4:7-8 that passes understanding it guards our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus**

Ephesians 2:14 says that **he himself is our peace**

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