

The parables in the light of THE PARABLE

The gospel of **the kingdom** is the seed (the word, the word of the kingdom, the word of God) sown into the hearts of individuals to transform the individuals (people) from the inside out.

What does that mean?

- We can ignore it altogether.
- We can oppose it or resist it from allowing it to take root in our hearts.
- We can be distracted by other loves for things of the world.
- Or we can hear it, accept it, embrace it and allow it to do the work it was sent to do.

Do we allow **the kingdom of God** to do the work from the inside out, from our hearts, transforming us into His image?

Note that this parable is communicating the necessity of bearing fruit of the seed (the kingdom) implanted in us. The purpose of any seed being sown and the expectation is that the seed at some point will bear fruit to be harvested.

John the Baptist warned the Pharisees and Sadducees

Mat 3:10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Jesus warned of false prophets

Mat 7:17-19 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. (18) A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. (19) Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

In Mark, he follows **THE PARABLE** (of the sower) with the following:

Mar 4:13

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

This is the quintessential parable to understand all parables. God is sowing His seed in individuals throughout the world to do a work... of salvation, of healing, of deliverance, of redemption, of restoration, of reconciling to bring about a restitution of all things. Once we understand and embrace this gospel message, we acknowledge and realize that inherent in this message is the power of God unto salvation for all mankind.

Lamp Under a Basket

Mar 4:21-34 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.

(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."

There is **ACCOUNTABILITY** in **the kingdom of God**. The more you hear, the more will be required of you. The more you are given, the more you are accountable to... we all must give an account for what we have done in this life given to us with the revelation that has been shared with us. There is a reckoning and on that day, you better have something to show for what you knew. Because if you have nothing to show, everything you do have will be taken from you.

The Parable of the Seed Growing

(26) And He said, "**The kingdom of God** is as if a man should 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."

The kingdom of God within an individual grows in stages, over a period of time. As it grows, it progresses until it comes to full maturity and then is harvested.

These growth stages are akin to the series I taught last year on the Seven Levels of Intimacy that Lead to Spiritual Maturity (Sinner-Savior, Sheep-Shepherd, Disciple-Master, Servant-Lord, Friend-Friend, Son-Father, Oneness with God).

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Matt 13:31-32	Mar 4:30-32
(31) Another parable He put forth to them, saying: " The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, (32) which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its	(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

branches."	birds of the air may nest under its shade."
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The kingdom of God initially, seems insignificant and unassuming, easily overlooked because it's potential is not discerned. It's obscured by those blinded or distracted by other things.

- "Good things come in small packages."
- "Good things come to those who wait."

The kingdom of God when it comes to its fulfillment will be far beyond anything we can contemplate or imagine.

We will only understand then how very true God's word when He spoke through Isaiah,

Isa 55:8-11 "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. (9) "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

(10) "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, (11) So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

(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.