

The Secret of the Kingdom

September 28th & 29th, 2013

Mark 4:1-20

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

- ❖ Understanding God's Word requires His supernatural revelation!
- ❖ Jesus told His disciples, "... *To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, ...*" Mark 4:11
 - ♦ Those outside of God's kingdom will have unreceptive hearts!
- ❖ This parable is foundational to understanding all of Jesus' parables!
"And He said to them, 'Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?'" Mark 4:13

The Sower

- ↳ This is the person who is sharing or teaching the Word of God.
"The Sower sows the Word" Mark 4:14
- ❖ The Word of God is:
 - Truth John 17:17; Proverbs 30:5
 - Effective Isaiah 55:10-11
 - Living and Active in our lives Hebrews 4:12
 - Sufficient for all we need for life 2 Peter 1:3-4
 - Profitable for growth and maturity 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - To be taught to all nations Matthew 28:19-20

The Soils

- ↳ These are the four types of people who hear the Word of God.
- ❖ The Path: People who are hardened and unreceptive to God's Word!
"... And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot and the birds of the air devoured it." Luke 8:5
 - ↳ Jesus' insight for His disciples, *"And these are the ones along the path, where the Word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the Word that is sown in them."* Mark 4:15
 - ♦ Satan is the prince of the power of the air. Ephesians 2:2
- ❖ Rocky Ground: People who want Jesus as Savior but not Lord!
"Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away." Mark 4:5-6
 - ↳ Jesus' insight for His disciples, *"And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then ... they fall away."* Mark 4:16-17
 - ♦ Persecution and tribulation will always come on account of God's Word. People who are truly committed to follow Jesus will root themselves in obedience to the Words of Christ!
Luke 6:46; John 15:18-19

- ❖ Thorny Ground: People who fail to put God and His Word as the priority of their lives!
 - “Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.” Mark 4:7
 - ♦ God desires “fruit” to be produced in our lives. John 15:7-8
 - ↳ Jesus’ insight for His disciples, “And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the Word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the Word, and it proves unfruitful.” Mark 4:18-19
 - ↳ Luke gives additional insight. “...they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.” Luke 8:14
 - ♦ Cares of this world – things that we have anxiety over Matthew 6:25
 - ♦ Deceitfulness of riches 1 Timothy 6:9-10
 - ♦ Desire for other things Luke 12:15
 - ♦ Pleasures of life 1 John 2:15-17
- ❖ Good Ground: People who hear God’s Word, believe it, put it into practice, and whose lives are transformed, being used by God to reproduce the life of Christ in others.
 - “And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” Mark 4:8
 - ↳ Jesus’ insight for His disciples, “But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the Word and accept it and bear fruit, ...” Mark 4:20

“The whole of the Christian life is one of continual and progressive response to fresh spiritual revelation ... because spiritual truth is not a set of isolated intellectual propositions to be mastered, but a whole to be comprehended by that sudden flash of insight that is the revelation of the Christ made to us by God. (Matt. 16:17)”¹

“... I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
Colossians 3:16-17

Endnotes:

¹ Cole, R. Alan. The Gospel According to St. Mark, An Introduction and Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans , 1961. (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries)

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