

The Kingdom Of God Pt 2

Prepared by: Pastor Blaine G. Smith

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Scripture Study

Ecclesiastes 3:1

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: (KJV)

Deuteronomy 28:12

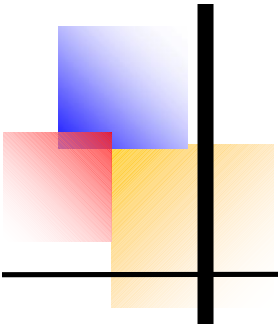
The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. (NIV)

- † We live in a fast paced and instantaneous world today. If we look around us there is nothing in nature that works that way. The scripture says to every thing and to every purpose there is a season and a time. "Every" means "each and all without exception." If we will learn to recognize the seasons and times, we can learn how to flow with God instead of against Him. Nothing in God's kingdom is instant. Seed grows continually and constantly.

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. (NIV)

- † Paul is teaching us that the invisible qualities of God's eternal power and His divine nature are clearly seen and understood by looking at what He has made. He did this so that no one would have any excuse for not knowing about His eternal power and divine nature. On the day of judgment ignorance will be no excuse.
- † The subject of this next parable is not the sower. The subject is the kingdom of God and how the Word will produce 30, 60 and 100 fold. Religion teaches that for some mysterious reason God decides to give some 30, some 60, and some 100 fold. Jesus explained everything fully and withheld nothing. Religion refuses to assume any responsibility, it wants to reserve the right to be able to blame God for their failure if things don't work out. Their favorite line is "you never know what God is going to do." If Jesus explained the secrets of the kingdom fully and completely which He did, then we had better learn what He taught.



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Mark 4:2-8

2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,

3 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. (KJV)

Mark 4:9-18

9 And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. (KJV)

✠ Jesus wasn't talking about the ears on their head. He was talking about spiritual ears and a heart to hear and understand. We will expound on this later. Keep in mind this is something Jesus Himself taught.

10 And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: (KJV)

11 He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables (NIV)

✠ We have access to a secret kingdom, a hidden kingdom. It is not hidden from the Christians, it is hidden from the sinners, those outside of the kingdom. Only the righteous are allowed to find out the secrets of the kingdom. Even among the Christians these secrets are not casually shared. There is a seeking that must take place. The Word says if you seek you will find. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (See page 4 for the definitions of secret and diligent.)

✠ As you read verses 12-20 make note of how many times Jesus made reference to hearing.

12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. 13 And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?



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13 And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?

✠ Jesus connected seeing to perceiving and hearing to understanding. In order to hold a key that will unlock the secrets of the kingdom you must be able to perceive and understand. In Matthew's account of this teaching he add "if you understand with your heart." This is one of the main differences between religion and Christianity. Religion originates and proceeds from the mind of man. Christianity originates and proceeds from the heart of man. We must learn the difference. Verse 13 in the Amplified reads like this. "And He said to them, Do you not discern and understand this parable? How then is it possible for you to discern and understand all the parables? We must understand this parable, it is the foundation or the key to understanding all parables. Jesus is saying if you can't understand this one you won't understand any of the others either.

14 The sower soweth the word.

15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

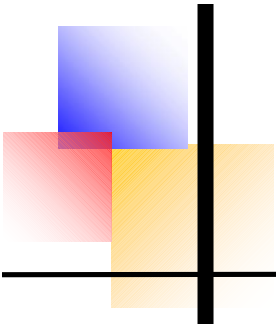
✠ Have you been making note of how many times Jesus referred to hearing?

Mark 4:19-25

19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred. (KJV)

✠ Jesus is teaching about people that were willing to hear and receive the Word. He didn't even address those that refused to hear. Everyone He preached to that day heard and received the Word. The problem was they didn't know what to do with what they heard and for 5 different reasons they gave up the seed. There were only three groups that produced a harvest. The kingdom of God is not random. God is not running a lottery nor is He a respecter of persons. So who or what determines the harvest?



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21 And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?

22 For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. (KJV)

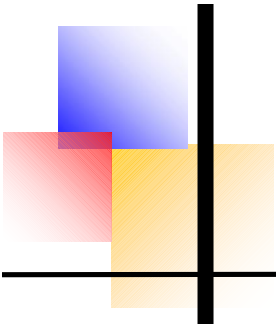
22 [Things are hidden temporarily only as a means to revelation.] For there is nothing hidden except to be revealed, nor is anything [temporarily] kept secret except in order that it may be made known.

23 If any man has ears to hear, let him be listening and let him perceive and comprehend.

24 And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you - and more [besides] will be given to you who hear. (AMP)

25 Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him." (NIV)

† Nothing will be kept secret to those that have an ear to hear. The secrets of the kingdom are given to those that have an ear to hear. Jesus taught that hearing the Word is how you receive the seed. Jesus sounded a warning in verse 24. He said "be careful what you are hearing." Why did Jesus say that? Because the way you hear is the way you measure and the way you measure is the way you receive. Isn't 100 fold a measure? Isn't 30 fold a measure? Even zero is a measure. You have 100 different measures to choose from, starting at zero. They all heard and they all received the Word, and they all measured what they heard. Some measured 100 fold, some measured 60 fold, some measured 30 fold yet others measured 0 fold. The measure has been placed in your hands, not God's. Every time the Word is presented to you, with it comes an opportunity and a responsibility to measure it. The amount of thought, study and comprehension you give to what you are hearing is what controls the way you measure it. We measure everything that is presented to us whether we are aware of it or not. You either measure using the Word or you measure with natural reason. You can measure big or small, right or wrong. The way you measure is the way it will be measured. I am reminded of Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." God gave us a free will. With it comes responsibility to make choices and decisions. (Deut 30:19) reads like this. "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:" Like it or not, the measure is your responsibility. Right now you are measuring everything you are reading.



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Mark 4:26-34

26 He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.

27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.

28 All by itself the soil produces grain-- first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.

29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." (NIV)

✠ The soil is your heart. There is power in the soil to produce a crop. (Prov 4:23) says "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." Soil cannot create seed but it has been given the power to grow seed. On the other hand seed cannot grow without soil. It takes both working together to bring a harvest. There is power in the seed and power in the soil.

30 Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?

31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground.

32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

33 With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand.

34 He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. (NIV)

✠ Amplified Bible reads "(those who were peculiarly His own) He explained everything [fully]." Being alone with Jesus gives us entrance into that secret place with Him. This is where the secret counsel is given.

✠ Everything needed to produce a harvest is in the seed. Every seed will produce after it's own kind. If you want corn you don't plant beans. If you plant a tomato seed it doesn't come up as cabbage. The same is true with the Word of God. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal 6:7) It seems like the only time we use (Gal 6:7) is to warn people when we see them planting bad seed. Don't forget there is a good side to this verse. It simply say's, don't be deceived whatever type of seed you plant is the kind of harvest you will reap. If you are planting good seed, rejoice, there is a good harvest on its way. If you have been planting bad seed, pray for a crop failure, then replant with good seed. "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:6-7) The type and amount of seed that you sow determines what the harvest will be. If you really believe what Jesus taught you will be looking all the time for ways to plant good seed.



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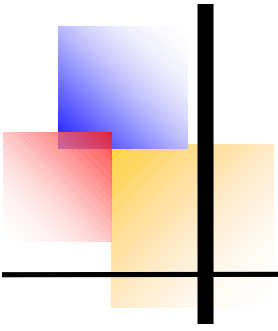
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Matthew 12:35

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. (KJV)

Secret - Kept hidden from knowledge or view; concealed. Dependably discreet. Operating in a hidden or confidential manner. Not expressed; inward. Not frequented; secluded. Known or shared only by the initiated. Beyond ordinary understanding; mysterious. Containing information, the unauthorized disclosure of which poses a grave threat to national security. Something kept hidden from others or known only to oneself or to a few.

Diligent - Marked by persevering, painstaking effort.



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Study Questions

1. Complete the following verse. "To every thing _____."
2. Expound on Romans 1:20.
3. Summarize the definition of the word secret.
4. Complete the following verse. "And He said to them, Be careful what _____."
5. Find and list the reasons why the Word did not produce a harvest.
6. In your own words explain why Jesus put so much importance on hearing.
7. Expound on Mark 4:26-34.
8. What did God reveal to you as you studied?

Extra Blessing

(Study To Show Yourself Approved Unto God 2 Timothy 2:15)

Matthew 13:9-23

Luke 8:5-18