

Series: "The Parables of Jesus"
"The Growing Seed" # 17
Mark 4:26-29
9-25-16 Sun PM

Remember, we are teaching the parables by teaching the context, the explanation, and the application. What is the setting, the point of the parable, and what does it mean for us?

Tonight we examine Parable # 22, the parable of the "Growing Seed."

Q- Are you sowing the seed of the Word of God in your heart and out there in the world? Are you a seed-thrower?

I. The Context.

Up to this point our study has focused in Matthew's gospel. Tonight we teach a parable that is found only in the gospel of Mark.

The context or setting seems to be the same context as Matthews teaching on the kingdom parables found in Matthew 13. This parable is very similar to "The Sower," and "The Mustard Seed."

II. The Explanation.

v. 26- What this parable reveals about the kingdom of God "as if."

Only Mark records this parable which complements the parable of the sower by explaining in more depth the results of spiritual growth accomplished in good soil.

This parable describes how the Word of God produces fruit and how the kingdom grows. The "seed" is not identified in this parable as the Word of God, but is in the parable of "The Sower." [4:14].

vs. 26-29- Note the growth produced.

1. vs. 26-28a- It is a Mystery.

The sower sows the seed and watches it grow (sprout and grow) but does not understand it though he sees it grow "knoweth not how." It grows by itself!

2. v. 28b- It is gradual.

The growth doesn't occur at once but is gradual. It grows step by step: first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. "corn" *seetos* here speaks of wheat or grain.

One Bible Background commentary says, "Every farmer would have agreed that God's providence, not the farmer's power, made the grain grow. Thus pagan and Jewish farmers alike sought divine help for their crops."

3. v. 29- The harvest will come.

By the growth the harvest eventually comes. The kingdom of God, growing by the Word of God being planted, is similar to the amazing growth observed in the sowing and reaping of the grain.

Before we apply the parable I want to compare the "Growing seed" and the "Sower."

1. The parable of "The Sower" speaks of the sower's responsibility to casting seed and some fell on good soil.
2. The parable of "The Growing Seed" stresses the divine power within the word.

The seed has within itself the power to germinate and grow in good soil. Yes we cast the seed but only God takes the seed cast on "good soil" and brings the growth and harvest.

III. The Application.

1. We are laborers together with God. We must sow seed everywhere and depend on him.
2. God cultivates and grows the seed. The growth will be gradual if it is planted on good soil, but it will bring a harvest!
3. You see the doctrine of Eternal Security in the parable. The seed grew till the harvest. Being he is talking of the seed being planted in your heart and the heart of the lost, this seed landing on good soil, will persevere.
4. Obedience in sowing and patience by the sower is necessary.
5. We must depend on the means He has ordained to save the lost- the Word of God by the Spirit of God. We don't depend on human gimmicks or human methods. We don't market the gospel or manipulate the heart!

Q- Are you sowing the seed of the Word of God in your heart and in the heart of the unbeliever? Are you a seed-thrower?