

MARK 4 25-29 THE LIFE OF GOD IN THE SOUL OF MAN

REVIEW:

INTRO:

- In the parable of the soils, 3 of the soils did not produce a harvest. Here the picture is of the 4th sowing, the process of the soil and seed that produced a harvest.
- Only Mark records this parable.
- In this parable we also see a picture and likeness between the growth of grain and the work of grace in the heart.

"True religion is a union of God with the soul, a real participation of the divine nature, the very image of God drawn upon the soul, or in the apostle's phrase, it is Christ formed in us."

"The worth and excellency of a soul is to be measured by the object of its love."

"The God of love had shot all His arrows, but could never pierce the heart, until at length he put himself into the bow."

MARK 4:25-29: THE PRINCIPLES OF LIFE AND GROWTH.

IT IS SPONTANEOUS:

- The sower sows the seed but he cannot make it germinate. We can share the word, preach the word but only God bring the miracle of life and growth. **1 Cor. 3:6,7**
- The field did not produce or create the seed. It did not of itself sow the seed.
- The growth is spontaneous, the husbandman sleeps by night and works by day, but he cannot make the kernel germinate and grow. The earth and its divine granted supply must bring forth the fruit of itself or not at all.
- There is a principle of life in the seed which causes it to grow and enables it to grow into what it was programmed for, for God has given it its body.
 - 1 Cor. 15:37-38; and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.
- And so it is with the gift of grace, it is as a seed which has within it the principle of life.
 - 1 Peter 1:23; for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable, but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.

- We have received this life from the fullness of Christ and it is the very life of Christ in us.
 - John 1:16 and of His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
 - Gal. 2:20; I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- This new life in the soul of man, like the sown seed, operates by a power which is inherent in it and is dependent only on Him who gave it that power.
 - 1 Cor. 15:10; But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me.
 - Phil. 2:13; for it is God who works in you both to will...
- Only that miraculous life breathing grace and power of God which has been granted to the believer can make the seed germinate, bring it to life, growth and maturity.
- The new life must be left to its own native energy.
 - Jn. 4:14; but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

IN IS A MYSTERY:

- Salvation belongs unto God. Rev. 7:10, Ps. 3:8, Jonah 2:9, **Titus 3:4-7**
- God does what man cannot do. Man cannot bring the rain, the sunshine, the temperature or the miracle of germination.
- The earth generally does not bring forth good grain of itself. It is the mother of weeds just as the human heart does apart from grace.
- The human heart cannot bring itself to life much less a holy harvest.
- The mystery of a crop from germination to harvest is not full known by man and resembles the working of grace in the heart.
- Like the growth of a plant from a seed, the growth of the life of Christ in the believer's soul is beyond the intellect of man.
- How the Spirit of God acts on and influences the powers of our minds and hearts we do not know.
- We cannot explain why the word produces effects on one person in the congregation and not on another who may be sitting right next to them.
- How the spirit moves to bring life and growth is a mystery to man.
 - JN. 3:8; The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."
- Our work is to sow the seed, occasionally water it, but like the parable we sleep and rise night and day and leave the increase to God.

IT IS GRADUAL:

- The seed does not spring up a mature plant ready for harvest, but first the shoot, then the ear, then the full mature head. VS. 28
- Yet what a change in appearance from a dry, dead seed to living vegetation bursting with life.
- There is an initial radical change that has taken place. It was once in darkness, now it thrives in the light.
 - 1 Thess. 5:5; You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.
 - 2 Cor. 5:17; Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- He has the principle of mature life within, but he is not born mature or come to full growth yet. He is a new creation, quickened from the dead.
- His knowledge of sin, self and God are yet young and somewhat untested, but they will deepen and grow as he matures. Eph. 4:13-15
- In 1 JN. 2:13-14 John also speaks of a progression in maturity; children in Christ have joy in the knowledge of their forgiveness, young men in Christ have strength from God by which they overcome, and fathers in Christ have the knowledge of Him who is from the beginning.

ITS DESIGN OR GOAL:

- The goal is not fieldwork, sowing, germination, plant growth but full harvest. All else is a means to the end. (Phil. 1:6)
- God our great Husbandman oversees and directs every aspect of the divine process, every minute detail for the accomplishment of His own purpose. Eph. 1:5, 6, 11, 12.
- The aim of the very first glimmer of life into our souls is given with the purpose to grow and gain our eternal happiness.
 - 2 Thess. 2:13, 14;
 - Rom. 8:28; And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.
- When the soul is ripe for glory immediately the sickle will be put in, when according to the wisdom of our God, we are truly and fully prepared for our future glory and reward, then God will receive us.
- Then will Christ rejoice in the fruit of His labors.
 - Isa. 53:11; He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied.
- What confidence the sower should have in the seed, the living Word of God. When it comes to life in the soul of man, in it are all the principles of life. The germ of life and growth unto harvest is there.
- 2 Peter 1:2-4