

The Mystery of the Kingdom of God – explained by Jesus

Mark 4:11 ...To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God...

Mark 4:26 ...The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,

Luke 8:11 ...The seed is the word of God (The ground is a person's heart or spirit-v. 15)

Matt 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom...(but hears it in their hearts)

Luke 17:21 ...The kingdom of God is within you (it begins or is increased in your heart)

The amazing parable of the Sower and the Seed

Matt 13:3-8 "Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty". (Jesus then explains this parable)

Matt 13:19-23 "The sower sows the word (Mark 4:14). When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root (nor depth of heart) in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles (he is offended – KJV).

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches (and the pleasures of life – Luke 8:14) entering in (the heart Mark 4:19) choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word (with a noble and good heart – Luke 8:15) and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Let's look in more depth at the magnificent truths this parable reveals

Seed sowing is for more than winning souls: The seed is the word of God. It is the word of the kingdom. The kingdom of God begins within a person when the first seed or word of the kingdom is believed in their hearts. Nowhere in the parable is it even hinted that this is a one time event. All of God's words are potential seeds waiting to be sown in the heart of a Christian. The more words of the kingdom a person believes, the more the kingdom of God is increased in that person's heart. Since kingdom means dominion, the greater the kingdom the more God reigns and the more secure is that person's salvation.

Jam 1:18-21 AMP (The Father) **It was of His own free will that He gave us birth as sons by His Word of Truth**, (God's first word to enter our hearts is how we were born again)...

So then, my beloved brethren (this is written to Christians), **let every man be swift to hear...and in a humble spirit** (continue to) **receive and welcome the Word which implanted and rooted in your hearts contains the power to** (fully) **save your souls.**

Luke 1:37 ...**No word from God shall be without power...**

AMP

The parable reveals that everyone's heart or spirit is in one of these four conditions:

Heart Condition # 1 – Totally hardened toward God: This is a heart that corresponds to the wayside, into which seed cannot penetrate. Such a heart has been hardened as a result of sin, sin being whatever is done without the conviction of its approval by God (Rom. 14:23 AMP). This is either an unconverted person or a Christian who has fallen away from God but who may still be quite religious. The word of God can only be spiritually understood with the heart. Since the heart of this person is hard they are not capable of spiritually understanding God's words and therefore Satan comes immediately and steals the word of God from them. They may have had an intellectual understanding of the word, but the intellect by itself is not capable of discerning spiritual truth:

Eph 4:18 **Having their understanding darkened...because of the blindness of their heart;** Acts 28:27 **Lest they should understand with their hearts...**

1 Cor 2:14 **But the natural man** (or the Christian relying on his natural mind) **does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

Result: The word of God's kingdom cannot be sown in such a hard heart until it is broken up and made soft by total repentance or the confession and forsaking of individual sins.

Heart condition # 2 – A heart with stones or some remaining areas of hardness:

This is a heart that corresponds to stony ground, in which seed can now be sown but because of the areas of hardness there is no depth of heart, and the seed of God's word can't grow and become strong. Initially there can be great gladness over receiving and understanding a new living word in the heart. But when adversity arises targeting that word, because of the stones that word isn't strong enough to overcome the adversity and the person stumbles or gets offended (often at God) and loses that word. This up but mostly down life cycle won't stop until the sins that caused the stones or areas of harness (which reveal points of resistance to God) are forsaken and the fallow ground is broken up.

James 4:8 (To Christians) **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**

Ps 119:165 **Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble** (or offends them- KJV – once soft, loving God's word, water, keeps my heart soft)

Result: The words of God's kingdom can only briefly be sown in such a heart, until the besetting sins or points of resistance to God are given up. Some of the more common sins are unbelief, pride, un-forgiveness, envy, disobedience to God and self-sympathy which excuses me of any blame for my troubles, and so indirectly puts the blame on God.

Heart condition # 3 – A divided heart that has loves or concerns besides God: This is a tender fertile heart into which God's living words can be sown. But because it is unguarded, doesn't fully trust God and has other affections, thorns can also be sown in it. Just as God wants to keep sowing the words of His kingdom into my heart, my enemies that oppose God (the world, my own human nature and the devil) want to sow ungodly seed into my heart. These corrupt seeds are deceiving thoughts, such as, to put my trust in money and material possessions, or to indulge my fleshly appetites, or to be anxious about my future. Their objective is to kill God's words and take control of my will. In order to grow spiritually and secure my eternity I must guard my heart from being invaded by these wrong thoughts. I do this by learning how to take thoughts that oppose God's will captive and learning how my will can possess my body in holiness and in honor to God.

Prov 24:30 **I went by the field (the heart) of the lazy man...the man devoid of understanding; And there it was, all overgrown with thorns...**

Prov 4:23 **Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.** AMP

2 Cor 10:5 **...Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,**

1 Thes 4:3-4 **For this is the will of God...that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel (his body) in sanctification and honor,**

Result: This person may flourish as a Christian for a while but by not being vigilant corrupt thorn thoughts are allowed to enter and grow in the heart. In due time, these thoughts extinguish the power of God's words and eventually gain control of the will.

Heart condition # 4 – A pure and undivided heart belonging to and precious to God:

This heart is entirely God's field, into which He daily sows the seed of His living words to first conform this person to the likeness of Jesus Christ. Then increasingly to reproduce those kingdom words, and by the inspiration of His Spirit sow them as seeds through that person's mouth, into the hearts of others. This person will not allow sin to harden their heart toward God, nor will they allow ungodly thoughts to gain access to their heart. This person has learned from God how to overcome their three mortal enemies and now to live in the liberty with which Christ has freed them from sin – this person is a disciple of Christ.

1 Pe 4:11 **If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God...**(meaning God, by His Spirit, speaks His words through him, which then go out as living seeds).

John 15:8 (Jesus) **By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit (the fruit of your lips preaching the words of the kingdom); so you will be My disciples.**

Ps 92:14 **They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,**

Result: Their will remains surrendered to God; they live as crucified with Christ. The love of God (which is the word of God) daily enters their hearts so that the kingdom of God, in which they live, increases in them, and they preach the word of the kingdom unto old age.

Luke 16:16 (Jesus) **The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presses into it.** KJV