

# The greatest secret ever told

The Seed Parables

Mark 4:1-34

# The secret of the kingdom of God

The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you (the disciples). But to those outside (not disciples) everything is said in parables (Mark 4:13)

**What's it?**

# The seed parables

- Sower (Mark 4:3-8)
- Growing seed (Mark 4:26-29)
- Mustard seed (Mark 4:31-34)



# The Parable of the Sower

<sup>3</sup> “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

# The Parable of the Parables

“Don’t you understand this parable (the Parable of the Sower)? How then will you understand any parable?”

Mark 4:13

# 3 key messages from the parable of the Sower

- It is a certain kind of seed
- Sowed in different kinds of conditions
  - Barren
  - Shallow
  - Among thorns
  - Fertile
- Received different kinds of responses
  - No effect
  - Short-lived effect
  - Die prematurely
  - Small and large effects (multiplying 30, 60, 100 times, different magnitudes)

**A seed?**



# A growing seed

<sup>26</sup> He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup> As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

# A growing seed

That has life in it

That grows all by itself and produces grain

# A mustard seed

“What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

# **Smallest seed**

That has potential to become a big tree

That can become useful to creatures

# Key to understanding

The farmer sows the WORD (*logon*).

Mark 4:14

# What's the secret of the kingdom of God?

1. The Word is a person. It is JESUS Himself
2. It is the life of God (seed) in the human soul
3. It is an unseen (not obvious like mustard seed, our inner life)
4. It is a growing because “God is in action” or “God is working”

# Paul's letter in Colossians 1:26-27

The mystery (secret) that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

# Lessons from the Colossae Church

- They heard it from Epaphras, the faithful minister (Col 1:7)
- The true message (Col 1:5,27)
- Not only heard it but truly understood it *or believe in it* (Col 1:6)
- The message has come to you and in the same way the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world (Col 1:6)



# Summary and Conclusion

The life of God is made available to us through Christ, it is Christ in us our hope of glory. 5 applications....

1. Understand it
2. Respond to it
3. Live it
4. Experience it
5. Share it

**“Get the right message and get our message right”**

**We will be fine!!**