

Parable of Seed Growing by Itself

Mark 4:26-29

Parable of Seed's Spontaneous Growth

Text:

Mark 4:26-29,

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.

Commentary:

I. The man sowing seed is the teacher or preacher of the gospel.

II. Whether he sleeps or gets up the seed continues to grow. His sleeping and rising night and day indicate that human effort isn't the cause of the growth of the seed.

III. The man sowing the seed did not understand the process between sowing and reaping in spiritual matters. God gives the increase.

IV. His knowing when to harvest the crop speaks to man's receipt of God's blessings even though he does not understand all the aspects of the mechanism that produced the blessings. John 3:5-9, Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So

it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” “How can this be? Nicodemus asked.

V. The harvest is the converting of souls to Christ by the preaching of the gospel.

VI. The earth's bringing forth fruit of itself refers to the adaptability of human nature to the word of God.

VII. “The blade, ear, and full grain” phases refer to the gradual growth of the gospel in the hearts of mankind.

VIII. Harvesting is also used as a figure for judgment.

A. Joel 3:12, 13, “Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes for the winepress is full and the vats overflow – so great is their wickedness!”

B. Matthew 13:39-43, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Parable of Seed Growing by Itself

Questions

1. The _____ of _____ is like a man who _____ on the _____.
2. _____ and _____, whether he _____ or _____, the _____ and _____, though he does not _____ how.
3. _____ by _____ the _____ produces _____, first the _____, then the _____, then the _____ in the _____.
4. As soon as the _____ is _____, he puts the _____ to it, because the _____ has come.
5. God works in the affairs of men, but we don't always _____ how he operates.

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