

THE GOSPEL OF MARK: STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

4, As the Gospel source being uniquely (the) Son of God, Jesus Christ is LORD, i.e. Mediator of the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven & Creator, i.e. Uncreated God

Part 4B

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Our Lord's Day, Sunday, November 26, 2017

Introduction: “And God said, ‘Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.’ And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.” (Genesis 1:11-13)

Throughout Scripture the planting, germinating, growing and fruitfulness of seeds, even contrasted with weeds, is used to teach about truths of supernatural regeneration, i.e. being born again, and sanctified transformation, i.e. holiness of person as the fruit of justification.

In chapter 4, Mark continues with straight talk about Jesus Christ as the Gospel source being uniquely (the) Son of God, Jesus Christ is LORD, i.e. Mediator of the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven & Creator, i.e. Uncreated God.

4:1-34, Jesus' didactic parables are used to reveal and conceal by His mysteries about the Kingdom of Heaven/God.

Note: the preaching/teaching excerpts and the episodes of chapter 4 are connected with chapter 3 continuing “on that day” (cf. Matthew 13:1) elaborating and contradicting the Beelzebub blasphemy by Jesus' self-attesting Kingdom parables, i.e. not the kingdom of Satan and by His self-attesting Creator powers, i.e. He rebukes storms like He rebukes the devil and the demons, etc.

*Jesus' kingdom parables reveal & conceal His mysteries about the Kingdom of Heaven/God,

- Jesus did not invent the parable form...
- Jesus identifies His use of parables to be about revealing His Kingdom mysteries to His disciple-believers, cf. 4:2, 10-11, 22, 30, 33-34...
- Jesus intends His use of parables to also conceal His Kingdom mysteries from disloyal-unbelievers, 4:9,11-12//Isaiah 6:9-10 [LXX], 23, 25, cf. 3:28-30...

“As for those wicked and ungodly men whom God, as a righteous Judge, for former sins, doth blind and harden, from them he not only withholdeth his grace whereby they might be enlightened in their understandings, and wrought upon in their hearts; but sometimes

also withdraweth the gifts which they had, and exposeth them to such objects as their corruption makes occasions of sin; and, withal, gives them over to their own lusts, the temptations of the world, and the power of Satan, whereby it comes to pass that they harden themselves, even under those means which God useth for the softening of others.” (Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 5, section 6)...

vv. 1-2, The public preaching/teaching of the New Covenant gospel mysteries is ordained of God by command and example of Jesus Christ:

- Another great multitude gathers by the sea-shore to hear Jesus who preached/taught to more people than He healed and did wonders...
- In N.T. Greek the verb form, i.e. the action of teaching—imparting knowledge, indoctrination, and the noun form, i.e. the content or the doctrine, are from the same root word carried over into the English word didactic, i.e. teaching intended to have an effect on thoughts and actions...

vv. 3-9, The public preaching/teaching of the New Covenant gospel mysteries is not only by faithful expounding of Holy Scripture, but also by “conscionable hearing”, cf. WCF...

- This parable of Jesus’ is often called “the Parable of the Sower” but sometimes “the Parable of the soils”, etc.
- The hearers of this parable do not have to be farmers to understand its meaning about planting seeds...
 Ill. spreading grass seed in a suburban yard...
- However to hear this parable in faith is to believe what it reveals about the Kingdom of Heaven/ God, cf. 4:9...
- Jesus Himself identifies this parable as a seminal parable for understanding the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven/God, cf. 4:13...

vv. 10-12, The public preaching/teaching of the New Covenant gospel mysteries is believed by a regenerated self-consciousness and learned study of the whole counsel of Scripture as the Word of God...

- Jesus revealed the interpretation and meaning of His Kingdom mysteries to His believing disciples then and now, cf. 4:14-20, part 4C...
- Although unbelievers may hear the parallels of spiritual truths from Jesus’ parables, unbelief is demonstrated by no fruit of repenting and confessing the guilt of sin and gift of salvation by the fruit of Holy Spirit regeneration, e.g. Jesus emphasizes fruitfulness, cf. 4:8//20...
- Mark records Jesus referencing Isaiah 6:9-10 in application of the Sower Parable...

v. 13, To understand Jesus’ parables by a revealed and learned knowledge begins by faith believing Jesus’ mysteries about the Kingdom of Heaven/God.