

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 4C

G.H. Elliott, Pastor

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Introduction: 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:

- 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...

vv. 1-13, To understand Jesus' parables by a revealed and learned knowledge begins by faith believing Jesus' mysteries about the Kingdom of Heaven/God; the gift of faith enlivens the soul to the intuitive witness of the Holy Spirit bearing the fruit of God's Word...

[v. 13, Gk. ο ἰ δ α τ ε - perfect tense, active voice, indicative mood-(oida defective perfect/ ε ἰ δ ω/eido⁻

A primary verb; used only in certain past tenses; properly to *see* (literally or figuratively); by implication (in the perfect only) to *know*: - be aware, consider, (have) known (-ledge), look (on), perceive, see, be sure, tell, understand by an intuitive grasp, realization ...

γ ν ω σ ε σ θ ε - future tense, middle voice, indicative mood- γ ἴ ν ω σ κ ω/gino⁻sko⁻

A prolonged form of a primary verb; to "know" (absolutely), in a great variety of applications and with many implications : - allow, be aware (of), feel, (have) known (-ledge), perceive, be resolved, can speak, be sure, understand by a studied purpose...]

Ill. seed germination from within itself and then nurtured from without to be fruit-bearing...

* 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 the Holy Spirit's work of regeneration, e.g. Jesus emphasizes fruitfulness, cf. 4:8//20...

vv. 13-20, This parable of Jesus' is often called "the Parable of the Sower" but sometimes "the Parable of the soils", etc.

v. 14//v. 3, the sowing of seed symbolizes the spreading of the Word of God, e.g. Jesus example of preaching/teaching...

➤ 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...

v. 15//v. 4, grass seed on the driveway//seed scattered by the wayside=the Word of God scattered on a hard heart of unbelief so that like birds easily gobble up the seed on top of the hard ground, Satan's rebellion deliberately takes away the Word of God's witness to conscience...

vv. 16-17//vv. 5-6, grass seed in the shallow dirt of the gutter between the curb and road//seed scattered on stony ground=the Word of God heard superficially as moralisms of self-improvement but being rootless in the heart when experiencing the heat of tribulation/trouble and persecution for Biblical truth & authority...

vv. 18-19//v. 7, grass seed spread over the edge of the yard//seed scattered among thorns=the Word of God twisted and heard selfishly as a means to worldly security by material wealth and the easy/pleasure-life overgrow and choking out the external witness of the Word of God...

➤ 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...

v. 20//v. 8, In the conclusion of this parable, Jesus brings together the sower, the seed, and the soil to draw from a picture of farming a faith-lesson about the Kingdom of Heaven/God:

➤ where do farmers/preachers plant most of the seed/word...

➤ what are the differences between the soils/heart-hearing...

➤ how is the seed/word made to be fruitful...

"Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are

one, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field...." (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)