

The Mystery of God's Kingdom in the Soul of Man (Mark 4:26-29)

- This parable is unique to Mark's gospel: mysterious transforming Word in the soul
- Based on v 33,34 it seems Mark returns to when Jesus was teaching the crowd
- The parables of the seed & the sower & the seed growing in secret are connected
- 1st stresses human responsibility: the seed can't grow & bear fruit without good soil
- the Word/ the message of God bears fruit when the heart response favorably
- Paul preached to the jailor, he asked: 'what must I do to be saved?' (Acts 16:30,31)
- But man cannot save himself; only when God imparts power to him can he be saved
- Parable focuses on God's sovereignty in salvation, He gives growth & preservation
- Because of His will the spiritual seed, the word/message of the Gospel asserts its increasingly powerful influence upon the hearts of people & upon society generally
- Victory is assured: God's plan must be & is going to be carried out.

I. The Growth of Spiritual Life is a Mystery to Man (4: 26,27)

- Jesus is speaking of the kingdom of God & its mysterious growth & reign in all life
- Sower sows the seed entrusting it to the soil, night & day passes he sees no growth
- The sower has no control over the seed but secretly it is sprouting and growing
- Likewise the words 'he knows not how' reveal the mystery of divine life in the soul
- Paul said, "he planted, Apollos watered, but GOD gave the growth" (1 Cor. 3:6)

II. The Seed Reveals Its Potency (28)

- The seed sprouts & grows, 'by itself' -without visible cause (Acts 12:10)
- The sower beholds the growth of the seed & he exclaims, what potency in the seed
- So it is also with the kingdom, the reign of God! A faith minister scatters the word
- He explains, pictures, invites, exhorts, comforts, warns, urges, makes pastoral calls
- Mostly his efforts seem futile. Suddenly the Holy Spirit like wind blows & converts
- The word shows its power. It has been active before, but the results were not seen
- The transition from the blade, to the ear to the full grain in the ear is imperceptible

III. The Harvest Time Testifies Victory (29)

- Whenever the grain is ripe -- and not until then -- will the harvest begin in earnest
- At once, without delay the man of vs.26 puts his sickle in, the moment has arrived
- The harvest proves that victory is sure: harvest is a certainty & at God's appointed time it arrives. The kingdom is revealed in splendor (Rev 11:15; 17:14; Jas 5:7,8)