

14 The farmer sows the word. 15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. 16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. 20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

The 4 Conditions of the Heart When hearing the Word of God

1. A hard heart;
2. An impulsive heart;
3. A divided heart;
4. A receptive heart

Why does Jesus characterized the Kingdom of God as a seed?

A seed is both weak and powerful.

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

John 12:24



The story of the King... who came to serve.

Part 11:

How to Change the condition of your heart; it's in the seed.

Mark Chapter 4 verses 1-20

Parallel passages of the same event: Mark and Matthew

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake.

Mark 4:1

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.

Matthew 13:1

Jesus left the house where the religious leaders had accused him of being in league with the Devil and began to teach in parables.

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ²He taught them many things by parables,

Mark 4:1,2a

Jesus had also previously taught from a boat back in Mark Chapter 3

The Parable of the Sower

and in his teaching said: ³“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.” ⁹Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Mark 4:3-9

The Disciples ask about why he taught in parables:

¹⁰When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. Mark 4:10

Jesus' answer: There are two classes of "hearers"

And He told them "To you has been given the mystery (secrets) of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, Mark 4:11

When you see the word "mystery" in the New Testament It refers to something once hidden by God, but now revealed.

Paul, in 1 Corinthians 4:1 says of the apostles, This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed.

What are these mysteries?

Basically, as you read through the Scriptures, you see that they vital truths about humanity which are not discoverable in secular studies.

In Chapters 1 and 2 of First Corinthians, Paul describes them as the "deep things of God," and they're Spirit charged.

He says the natural man cannot understand them, for they are revealed only by the Spirit of God: 1 Corinthians 2:10

Scripture speaks of various mysteries:

In 2 Thessalonians 2:7 Paul speaks of the "mystery of lawlessness,"

In 1 Timothy 3:16 Paul speaks of the "mystery of Godliness"

Verse 12 has bothered a lot of people over the years:

And He told them "To you has been given the mystery (secrets) of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, ¹²so that, " they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" Mark 4:11,12

We will be helped greatly if we understand two things:

1. Mark's account of this statement is shorter version than what's in Matthew 13, which allows for greater understanding.
2. Jesus is quoting the OT prophet Isaiah 6:8-10

Matthew's account:

"With them (the non-hearers) indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah which says: 'You shall indeed hear but never understand, and you shall indeed see but never perceive.'" ..."For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn for me to heal them."

Matthew 13:14, 15

Verse 13's importance the key to interpreting all parables

And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?" Mark 4:13