



*The Mysteries of the Kingdom of God are tucked inside of the Living Word of God.

1. **Two weeks ago** we learned who the Herodians were. Friends to the Pharisees and aligned with the politics of Herod. They plotted to kill Jesus.
2. **Last week** we applied spiritual insight into a house divided cannot stand. Our nation is divided and cannot stand. We must go back to the truth of our Liberty. "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof." This verse refers to the "Jubilee", or the instructions to the Israelites to return property and free slaves every 50 years.
3. **Today we tie** these truths into the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. The parable of the sower is a key to the Church if they are to understand all the other parables.

**Mark 4:1 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. 2 He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: 3 "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew, and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."*

*Jesus uses parables with consistent idioms.

1. **The Seed is the Word of God.** It will multiply in your life and continue to produce.
2. **The Soil is our heart.** The heart must stay surrendered if it is going to stay as good soil for the Word of God.
3. **The birds are** the devils that steal, choke off and hinder the Word of God.
4. **How we respond** to the Word of God is the key to the Kingdom's productivity.

**Mark 4:9 Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."
10 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. 11 He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside, everything is said in parables 12 so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"
13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?"*

*The secrets of the Kingdom of God are buried within the Word.

1. **The key parable to** understanding all the other parables that apply to the Church.
2. **The things religious people** say against Jesus will divide us.

**Mark 4:14 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 secrets to accepting the Word of God.

1. **V:15 Anyone who takes away** from the Word of God is against the Kingdom of God.
2. **V:16-17 You cannot dabble** in the Word it must sustain you or you will fall away.
3. **V:18-19 If the Word of God is not indispensable** to you, other things will deceive you about how imperative they are.

**Mark 4:21 He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? 22 For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear."*

24 "Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. 25 Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them."

*The measures you use to reveal or conceal God's Word have consequences.

1. **Christians must be careful who they listen to.** We must become Berean believers according to ***Acts 17:11** Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.
2. ***V:24 And to those who hear,** you will hear even more.
3. **V:25 Those who don't have the Word of God.** You will lose your sensitivity to the Word.