



More Mark 4



When Jesus had finished telling the parable of the sower, his disciples did not understand the meaning of what He had said. He explained once again the different kinds of soil, (hearts of people), that the seed (the Word of God) would be sown on, and that only those who are ready to receive the Word with a hungry spirit and are ready to nurture it within their heart, will bear fruit and receive a harvest some thirtyfold, some sixtyfold, some one hundredfold. (Mark 4:20)

Jesus went on to explain that just as a seed is planted underground, and cannot be seen while it is growing roots, so it is with the Word of God. It is temporarily hidden in the good soil of a believing heart until it has taken root and is ready to break forth and blossom, bearing much fruit. Then it will be revealed.

A seed that is rooted and growing cannot be kept under the soil. It will find a way to reach the sun no matter how heavy something may be on top of it. Christians should be like spiritual dandelions. Dandelions will push their way up through the tiniest crack in a sidewalk, or push through the black asphalt of a parking lot. They can be walked on, run over or pulled out – but they never lose their roots. No matter what happens to them from the outside, they will re-appear with their sunny yellow faces, (especially in the neighbors yard). Dandelions don't get any nurturing or care from the outside, but the ability to grow and bloom again is in their roots.



Jesus uses another parable to describe the power of the Word of God when it is planted in us. He said, *“It is like a grain of mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on the earth; yet, after it is sown, it grows up to be the greatest of all plants and becomes a tree with huge branches, that are so big the birds (big and small) are able to make their nests and dwell there, in God’s care, under the shadow.”* (Mark 4:31,32)



David described what it is like to dwell under the shadow of God’s care like that. He said, *“He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide (make their home) under the shadow of the Almighty (God). Then I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: My God; in Him I will trust.”* (Psalm 91:1,2)

In the back of every human brain, there is a tree-like structure called the “arbor vitae” which means the “tree of life.” Each of you has a tree of life in their brain where knowledge and memory are stored. If you will take very good care of the words you put in there, especially the Word of God that you see and hear and store there, then the Holy Spirit will bring forth fruit from it as a product of a healthy tree, some thirtyfold, sixtyfold or one hundredfold, that is what Jesus meant about the mustard seed being like the Word of God it starts out small, but grows very big.

(Cont'd)

The kind of fruit the Holy Spirit will bring forth from the Word of God within you is this:



“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, humility, kindness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

You will notice that all of the good fruit of your spirit not only helps you mature, but it is for blessing, loving, and giving out to others.

“This fulfills all the law in one word; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” (Galatians 5:14)

Another name for Jesus is ‘the Word.’ He is the written Word of God made flesh, and sent from heaven to earth to heal, restore and re-unite humanity with their God. When Jesus returned to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to take His place on earth in the hearts of the people to bring forth the fruit of the Word of God in them.

He said, *“I am the true vine, and my Father takes care of the vine. If a branch in Me does not bear fruit and will not live in Me, My Father takes it away, but every branch that lives in Me and brings forth fruit, He works with it and trims off wrong growth and prunes it so it can bring forth more fruit. Now, you are clean (pruned and purged from sin) through the Word which I have spoken unto you. Abide (dwell) in Me, and I will abide in you. You cannot bear fruit by yourself, anymore than a broken off branch can bear fruit, so you cannot bear fruit unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. If you abide in Me, and I in you, you will bring forth much fruit, for without Me, you can do nothing. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” (John 15:1-7)*



Praise the Lord!



More Mark 4

1. What kind of hearts will produce fruit from the Word of God?

2. What 3 quantities of harvest can be produced?

3. Why does the Word of God need to be hidden for a little while?

4. What little flower should we be like? _____

Why? _____

5. What is the tiniest seed of all the plants? _____

6. Why did Jesus say the Word of God is like a mustard seed?

7. Where is the secret place of the Most High?

8. Is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in me just for me? _____

9. What's another name for Jesus? _____

10. What is the promise Jesus in us makes if we will abide in Him? (John 15:7)

(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE: _____

More Mark 4

1. What kind of hearts will produce fruit from the Word of God?

Those that are ready to receive it with a hungry spirit, and are ready to nurture it.

2. What 3 quantities of harvest can be produced?

Thirtyfold, sixtyfold, hundredfold.

3. Why does the Word of God need to be hidden for a little while?

So it can be firmly rooted in the heart's soil before being exposed to any thing that would harm it.

4. What little flower should we be like? A dandelion.

Why? Because they never lose their roots no matter what happens.

5. What is the tiniest seed of all the plants? The mustard seed.

6. Why did Jesus say the Word of God is like a mustard seed?

Because it is the smallest seed of all, and grows to be a huge tree.

7. Where is the secret place of the Most High?

Under the shadow of God (in His care).

8. Is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in me just for me? No it's for others too.

9. What's another name for Jesus? The Word of God.

10. What is the promise Jesus in us makes if we will abide in Him? (John 15:7)

MEMORY VERSE: "If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you!"