

# God's Kingdom – Man Scattering Seed

## [Mark 4:26-29]

**Mark 4:26-29** [NIV] *“He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces corn, first the stalk, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”*

This very short parable of Jesus Christ is only recorded by Mark.

Yet this can give us a deeper understanding of how our Creator God is preparing His kingdom, the created family of God.

We could easily read right over this passage of scripture thinking it is of little value being so like the parable that precedes it.

God never wastes words in His inspired record of Jesus' life and teaching, this short parable was included for a specific purpose.

This is one of several parables that give us a brief insight into the kingdom of God, that is His spiritual creation, and the future life of all true and faithful Christians.

### What does the parable tell us?

#### 1. The helplessness of human beings

The growth of the kingdom of God is **not** something that we can do.

We can only be instruments in the hands of the Holy Spirit as He gives the growth of that kingdom.

The farmer planted the seed, in faith, but is totally unaware of how it germinates and starts to grow.

We can *“plant the seed”*, that is broadcast the good news of what God has done for all humanity through the birth, life, death and resurrection of His only non-created Son Jesus Christ.

We **cannot** cause this message to react in the minds and hearts of other human beings, only the Holy Spirit can do this, as part of His job description.

**John 16:8-11** [NIV] *“When he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”*

Only the Holy Spirit can convict a person that they are sinners and need a Saviour from the ultimate death penalty that their sins will earn them.

**Romans 3:23** [NIV] *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

Every human being sins.

**Romans 6:23** [NIV] *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Our sins earn us only eternal death.

Human beings are **not** creators, we can only discover, rearrange and develop what has already been created, we **cannot** create anything.

We have to apply this to the growth of the kingdom of God.

The only thing we can do is to frustrate, hinder or delay the creation of the kingdom of God.

How do we do this?

By resisting the work of the Holy Spirit in and through us.

**Romans 5:5** [NIV] *“And hope does not disappoint us, because **God has poured out his love into [through] our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.**”*

God’s love for humanity is expressed in and through us, as we develop the Holy Spirit’s fruit of love.

The Greek preposition “*en*” is better translated “*through*” when we take into consideration how the Holy Spirit works, see **John 7:38-39**.

**John 7:38-39** [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, **streams of living water will flow from within him.**” **By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.**”*

We have to allow the Holy Spirit to flow through us to spread God’s love by our physical acts of loving others.

**2 Peter 3:10-13** [NIV] *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, **what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.** That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”*

Two things we can do for the coming of God’s kingdom: a) Look forward to it; b) Speed its coming.

How do we do the second?

**2 Peter 3:14** [NIV] *“So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, **make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.**”*

Make every effort to personally be prepared spiritually for that day.

## **2. The growth of the kingdom of God is often imperceptible**

We will **not** see permanent changes in others or ourselves dramatically overnight.

We need to look for changes over a period of time.

This can often take years to happen after the first contact with the gospel message.

## **3. Growth of the kingdom of God is constant**

Notice how the growth of the seed was “*night and day.*”

There is also a growth pattern, stalk, head and then the ultimate increase of what was planted, the full fruit in the head of corn.

**Romans 8:28** [NIV] *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

God will use every experience we have in life to further our spiritual growth.

This will happen only once the “seed” of knowledge of the reason for our existence has been planted in our mind and spirit, and we begin to love our Creator God for who He is, not just for what He has done or blessed us with.

#### **4. The growth of the kingdom of God is inevitable**

In the physical creation here is a great power for growth.

Tree roots can destroy the foundation of a house.

Weeds can push through an asphalt path.

**Isaiah 55:11** [NIV] *“so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”*

The preaching of the Word of God, the Christian Bible, will eventually accomplish the goal it was created for, to create a group of people with the same personality and characteristics as their Creator God.

**Genesis 1:26** [NIV] *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

The “likeness” that God set as His goal for humanity refers to character not physical form.

Nothing in the universe will stop the creation, growth and final coming in its complete form, the kingdom of God.

#### **5. There will be a harvest time for the kingdom of God**

**2 Corinthians 5:10** [NIV] *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”*

A time of judgement as to whom will be part of this kingdom of people who have been created in the “likeness” of our Creator God.

**Ecclesiastes 11:9** [NIV] *“Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment.”*

The time of judgement starts when we are young.

**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** [NIV] *“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”*

We cannot hide anything from God.

Reading **Psalm 139:1-6** will help us to understand this concept.

#### **What can we learn personally?**

##### **a) Be patient**

We are all creatures of the moment, and live in a culture that “*want it all now.*”

This is natural because we are physical and geared with time.

God isn't limited by time for He exists outside of time.

Time is just part of His physical creation.

**2 Peter 3:8** [NIV] “*But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*”

Time is **not** limiting God in His accomplishment of His plan for humanity, the creation of His kingdom of godlike human beings.

**2 Peter 3:9** [NIV] “*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*”

Part of God's character is patience, and that is part of the “*likeness*” of God we have to take on.

God's desire is that all humanity will use the time He has allotted to them to seek His forgiveness and accept His grace, undeserved pardon for their sins.

#### **b) This parable can give us hope**

Every farmer looks to a harvest time with hope.

We as Christians do have hope of a far better future for all humanity.

We can have this confidently as we read of the promises that God has made in His Word, the Christian Bible.

**Revelation 21:1-8** [NIV] “*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practise magic arts, the idolaters and all liars, their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.”*”

This hope of a new world comes at the time of the return of Jesus Christ to this earth, and a time of judgement.

All those who reject God and do **not** allow Him to mould them into His “*likeness*” will **not** have a part of this new world.

**Matthew 13:41-43** [NIV] “*The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.*”

A personal warning from the one who will harvest human beings for His kingdom.

c) **We must be constantly prepared for this time of harvest**

**Mark 4:29** [King James] *“But when the fruit is brought forth, **immediately** he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.”*

Notice the word “*immediately*” indicating that we could be caught out by the sudden end to our time of growth.

The quality of many physical crops are lost if the harvest is delayed, so the farmer must be ready to harvest at any time.

**Matthew 24:36, 42-44** [NIV] *“**No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.**” ... “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. **So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.**”*

The day of Jesus Christ’s return and judgement as to whether we are fit to be part of His kingdom, most likely will be the day of our death, and that day is only known by God Himself.

**Luke 12:42-46** [NIV] *“The Lord answered, **“Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.”**”*

Again a personal warning by Jesus Christ Himself who will be our judge.

**John 16:13** [NIV] *“**But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.**”*

The above is an example of how the Holy Spirit can expand the understanding of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, if we allow Him to do this in us.