

The Parable of the Secret Seed

Mark 4:26-29

1. Relate the parable briefly.
2. What other writer records this parable?
3. According to the parable, what is the kingdom of God like?
4. What happened after the man planted or cast seed into the ground?
5. What is meant by “sleep and rise night and day”?
6. Upon what does the growth of the seed depend?
7. How does the seed grow up and produce?

8. What is it that brings forth fruit of itself?

9. What are the three stages in the development of the seed?

10. What determines when the fruit is ready for harvest?

11. What happens when the growing process is complete?

12. Who is the man sowing seed?

13. What part of the parable indicates that human effort is not the cause of the growth of the seed?

14. What is it about the parable that points out the ignorance of men in both physical and spiritual matters?

15. If this parable has to do with conversion, what is it that shows how men are able to reap spiritual results without knowledge of how they are produced?

16. If this parable is about conversion, what would the harvest represent?

17. What is it that shows the adaptability of human nature to the word of God?

18. Is this parable about the gathering of saints to glory or the gathering of men to Christ?

19. Do you agree with Richard Trench when he writes: "When the soul is ripe for his kingdom, and he gathers it to himself, this is the harvest"?

20. If Christ's servants or ministers gather souls into the kingdom, could we say that in a sense it is done by Christ?

21. Could we then say that Christ could be the man in the parable even though the work of planting is done by an agent?

22. Could it also be a reasonable explanation of this parable to view it as developmental stages of growth from Old Testament prophecy to John's preparatory work and Jesus unto the work of the apostles who reap and harvest souls in preaching the gospel throughout the world?

23. In connection with the last question, can you name the five "P's" of the gospel, i.e. the phases of the gospel that begin with the letter "P"?