

## **“Parable of the Growing Seed”**

### **Introduction – Mark 4:26-29 (NIV)**

**26** He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. **27** Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. **28** All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. **29** As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

Many take this parable as a continuation of the parable of the sower which is recorded in Mark 4:2-9

### **Mark 4:2-9 (NIV)**

**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, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times.” **9** Then Jesus said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Then Jesus interprets this in very understandable terms:

### **Mark 4:13-20 (NIV)**

**13** Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? **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—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.”

## **I. UNDERSTANDING THE PARABLE OF THE GROWING SEED**

1. In this parable Jesus tells of a man who scatters seed on the ground. Let’s interpret this as preachers and sharers of God’s word with **PEOPLE WHO SHARE THE GOSPEL**.

2. **THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD**

3. **THE SOIL IS THE HEARTS OF THE HEARERS OF THE MESSAGE OF GOD’S WORD**

What is very interesting here is that the sower of the seed doesn’t seem to have a direct impact on the germination of the seed. The emphasis is that the seed is planted in the soil and in time it grows to eventually produce a harvest!

In many parables Jesus explains their meaning but since this one is an expansion of the parable of the sower the emphasis is that the work of God in the human heart is a mystery to our understandings. The fact that this seed planted in the soil sprouts, grows and though he does not know how the soil produces grain – first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.

This is an important encouragement to us who share God's word to leave the results to God! We cannot make people believe! We want to fertilize the soil and water the seed but the work of salvation is the work of God in the human heart! Listen to Paul explain this to the Corinthians:

**I Corinthians 3:4-9 (NIV)**

**4** For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? **5** What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. **6** I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. **7** So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. **8** The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. **9** For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

Paul understood the work of God was to cause the seed planted to grow and their part was to plant and water!

It is God who gives the increase, the response to the Gospel! We are called to do our best; pray and leave the results to God!

Listen to Jesus speaking to His disciples:

**Luke 10:2 (NIV)**

**2** He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

**John 4:35-38 (NIV)**

**35** Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for

harvest. **36** Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. **37** Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. **38** I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

Now to an illustration of this!

## **Conclusion**

Beau Vasas’ testimony