

Seeking For Truth Treasures

What portion of the scriptures do you read most frequently? I feel certain the majority of people would answer that question with the Four Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were privileged by the Holy Spirit to record the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet while reading these blessed gospels, I believe we have a tendency to underestimate the value of the parables Jesus taught. I must admit there was a time when I was in that category.

Our tendency to underestimate the importance of Jesus' parables stems from two sources. First of all when we read the parables it seems like Jesus is trying to hide something from His listeners. That was the way it seemed to me anyway. Secondly, I am convinced our adversary, the devil, works overtime in his attempt to keep us from the truths Jesus wants us to embrace. If you also have underestimated the value of these parables, please allow me to share with you how the Holy Spirit helped me to overcome these two hindrances of understanding God's Word.

Before we continue, it is imperative that we understand what a parable is. Simply put, **a parable is a natural example used to convey or explain spiritual truths.** Since Jesus employed these examples quite often, it should be obvious how much He wants us to understand the principles of the Kingdom of God.

Let me ask you this - if someone told you there was a treasure hidden in your backyard and you were convinced that person was telling you the truth; what would you do? You know exactly what you would do; you would give all diligence, effort and expense to locate that treasure. Notice what the scripture says in Proverbs 2:1-5 (KJV)

“My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasure; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.” (Emphasis added)

To engage their thinking, Jesus responded with a question of his own. Just as quickly as darkness is dispelled by the light when you flip the switch in a dark room, the Holy Spirit illuminated my heart with the understanding of those thought-provoking words Jesus spoke. **IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS PARABLE, THEN YOU WILL NOT UNDERSTAND ALL THE OTHER PARABLES.** In other words, Jesus' response established the value and importance of the parable of the Sower and the Seed. Further study reveals this to be the first parable ever recorded and the significance Jesus places upon understanding it makes it the **MOST VALUABLE PARABLE JESUS TAUGHT.**

There are many truths hidden in Mark 4 that will help us operate effectively in the Kingdom of God and I believe the cohorts of hell tremble every time we uncover another one. The devil knows that when we discover these truths we will gain an advantage over him by learning the devices he used in the attempt to stop the word of God from producing fruit in our lives. Now we can see why he works so hard to devalue the word and attempts to keep us in darkness.

We challenge you to take hold of your spiritual shovel and start digging in Mark 4, also Matthew 13 and Luke 8. Believe me when I say there is only one word that can describe the results of your efforts: **LIFE-CHANGING!** When you discover your first nugget of truth, I feel confident you too will agree that Mark 4 contains the most important parable Jesus ever taught.

We pray, in Jesus name, for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you into all truth. Only the truth that you know and experience will be the truth that makes you free.