

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Message Three

**The Growth and Development of the Seed
of the Kingdom in the Believers**

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:1-20, 26-29; 12:30; Eph. 3:17; Col. 2:19; Gal. 4:19;
1 John 2:15; 5:4; John 12:31; 14:30; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:26; Col. 2:7;
Mark 1:35; Matt. 6:6; Phil. 4:7; 1 Tim. 6:9-10; 1 John 1:9

- I. God's New Testament economy is to sow the living person of Christ into our being so that we may live a life that is fully according to and for God's New Testament economy—Mark 4:1-20, 26-29.**
- II. In order to live a life that is fully according to and for God's New Testament economy, we must allow the indwelling Christ as the seed of life to grow in the soil of our entire heart, thus making our heart His home and a duplication of God's heart—Mark 4:1-20; 12:30; Eph. 3:16-17:**
 - A. Although man's heart is corrupt and deceitful and its condition is incurable (Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:21-23), even such a heart can be a tablet upon which God writes His law of life (Jer. 31:33; cf. 2 Cor. 3:3) by the spontaneous growth of Christ as the seed of life in man's heart (Mark 4:26-29); this is God's way, according to His economy, to deal with the heart of fallen man.
 - B. We must deal with the condition of our heart to make our heart the good earth for the full growth of Christ in us—Col. 2:19; Gal. 4:19:
 1. The wayside signifies the heart that is hardened by worldly traffic and cannot open to understand, to comprehend, the word of the kingdom; the birds signify the evil one, Satan, who comes and snatches away the word of the kingdom sown in the hardened heart—Mark 4:3-4, 15:
 - a. The anti-God world system with its worldly traffic is the system of Satan, who is the ruler of the world; we must be strengthened into our spirit, our inner man, and remain in our spirit so that we can overcome the world and be kept from the evil one by remaining in the pneumatic Christ for Him to make His home in our heart—1 John 2:14-15; 5:4, 18; John 12:31; 14:30; Eph. 3:16-17a.
 - b. We need to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly; His word works in us to separate us from anything worldly and to saturate us with the reality of the Triune God—Col. 3:16; John 17:17; Eph. 5:26.
 2. The rocky places that do not have much earth signify the heart that is shallow in receiving the Lord's word, having "no root"—Mark 4:5-6, 16-17:
 - a. The sun with its scorching heat signifies affliction or persecution; the scorching heat of the sun causes the seed that is not rooted to wither.
 - b. The heat of the sun is for the growth and ripening of the crop, which take place once the seed has been deeply rooted, but because of the seed's lack of root, the sun's heat, which should cause growth and ripening, becomes a deathblow to the seed.
 - c. In order to have Christ as the seed of life deeply rooted in us, we need to be deeply rooted in Him by having a secret life and secret history with Him—Col. 2:7; S. S. 4:12; Psa. 31:20; 32:7; 83:3; 91:1; 119:114.
 - d. We must take time in secret to absorb Him, setting aside time every morning to have direct and intimate fellowship with the Lord in pray-reading His word and interceding for the interests of God's economy—Mark 1:35; Matt. 6:6; Psa. 5:3; 27:4; 46:5; 59:16; 88:13; 90:14; 119:148; 143:8; 1 Kings 8:48.

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3. The thorns signify the anxieties of the age, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts for other things, which utterly choke the word, preventing it from growing in the heart and causing it to become unfruitful—Mark 4:7, 18-19:
 - a. Anxiety is the gear that makes the world move; to allow the Lord to deal with our anxiety is to allow Him to deal with the gear of our human life; our human life is a life of anxiety, whereas God's life is a life of enjoyment, rest, comfort, and satisfaction; we must habitually fellowship with God in prayer to be infused with Him as life and peace, the antidote to anxiety—Phil. 4:6-7; John 16:33.
 - b. To be deceived by riches is to suppose "godliness to be a means of gain"; because of pride and the desire for profit, for riches, some today are teaching differently; to maintain the victorious standard of the church, we need to be lovers of God for the economy of God, not lovers of money for the system of Satan—1 Tim. 6:6-10; 2 Tim. 3:1-5.
4. The good earth signifies a heart that gives every inch of its ground to receive the word that the word may grow, bear fruit, and produce even a hundredfold—Mark 4:8-9, 20, 26-29; Luke 8:15:
 - a. Today in the Lord's recovery the Lord is sowing Himself into people so that He may have the good earth to grow Himself into the kingdom.
 - b. Day by day and morning and evening, we must keep our heart open to the Lord by repenting and confessing all our sins to Him; this is the way to deal with our heart to make it the good earth for the growth of Christ as the seed of life—Mark 1:4-5, 15; 2 Cor. 3:16; 1 John 1:9.
 - c. Giving the Lord the full way to grow in our heart will make our heart the duplicate of God's heart, and we will live a life fully according to and for God's New Testament economy to carry out His heart's desire—*Hymns*, #395, #1132.