

HWMR - Crystallization Study of the Gospel of Mark

Book One, Week 6

Message Six

**A Life Fully according to and for
God's New Testament Economy****(2)**

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:1-20, 26-29; 12:30

- Mark 4: 1 And again He began to teach beside the sea, and a very great crowd was gathered unto Him, so that He stepped into a boat in the sea and sat down, and all the crowd was on the land, facing the sea.
- Mark 4: 2 And He taught them many things in **parables** and said to them in His teaching:
- Mark 4: 3 Listen! Behold, **the sower went out to sow.**
- Mark 4: 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell **beside the way**, and the **birds** came and **devoured it.**
- Mark 4: 5 And other seed fell on the **rocky place**, where it did not have much earth, and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.
- Mark 4: 6 And when the **sun** rose, it was scorched; and because it had no root, **it withered.**
- Mark 4: 7 And other seed fell into the **thorns**, and the thorns came up and utterly **choked it**, and it yielded no fruit.
- Mark 4: 8 And others fell into the **good earth** and **yielded fruit**, coming up and **growing**; and one bore thirty-fold, and one sixty-fold, and one a hundred-fold.
- Mark 4: 9 And He said, He who has ears to hear, let him hear.
- Mark 4:10 And when He was alone, those around Him, with the twelve, asked Him about the parables.
- Mark 4:11 And He said to them, To you it has been given to know the **mystery of the kingdom of God**, but to those outside, all things are in parables,
- Mark 4:12 In order that seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand, lest they turn and it be forgiven them.
- Mark 4:13 And He said to them, Do you not know this parable? And how will you know all the parables?
- Mark 4:14 The **sower sows the word.**
- Mark 4:15 And these are the ones **beside the way**, where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown into them.
- Mark 4:16 And likewise, these are the ones being sown on the **rocky places**, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy.
- Mark 4:17 Yet they have no root in themselves, but last only for a time; then when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately they are stumbled.
- Mark 4:18 And others are the ones being sown **into the thorns**; these are the ones who have heard the word,
- Mark 4:19 And the anxieties of the age and the deceitfulness of riches and the lusts for other things enter in and utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
- Mark 4:20 And these are the ones sown on the **good earth**: those who hear the word and receive it and bear fruit, one thirtyfold, and one sixtyfold, and one a hundredfold.
- Mark 4:26 And He said, **So is the kingdom of God**: as if a man **cast seed on the earth,**
- Mark 4:27 And sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and lengthens -- how, he does not know.
- Mark 4:28 The earth bears fruit by itself: first a blade, then an ear, then full grain in the ear.
- Mark 4:29 But when the fruit is ripe, immediately he sends forth the sickle, because the harvest has come.
- Mark 12:30 **And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength.**

CHRIST IN US

The crucial point is that God's New Testament economy is **not** a matter of improving our culture, religion, ethics, morality, character, or philosophy. **Neither** is the New Testament economy of God merely a matter of helping us to improve in being more scriptural, spiritual, holy, and victorious. **God's New Testament economy is to sow Himself into us so that we may live a life according to His economy.** (Life-Study of Mark, Chapter 58, Sec. 2)

DAY 1**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:**

- A. Christ as the **Sower** is the **Messenger** of God, Christ as the **seed** is the **message** of God as the gospel of God, and Christ **sown into our being to grow and develop in us** is the building of God and the kingdom of God as the goal of God—Luke 17:20-24; Mal. 1:1; 3:1-3; Heb. 1:2; 1 Cor. 3:6-9; 2 Sam. 7:12-14a.
- B. Christ as the **Sower** has **sown Himself** as the life-giving Spirit **into us**; the life-giving Spirit in our spirit is the **seed of a life** that lives fully according to and for God's New Testament economy—John 14:6a; 10:10b; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 1 John 3:9; 5:11-12; 1 Pet. 1:23; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21a; Rom. 8:2, 4, 6.

- C. The Lord's recovery is not a work, teaching, theology, or movement; **the Lord's recovery is the living Christ as the seed of life sown into our being.**
- D. The kingdom of God, which is Christ Himself as the life-giving Spirit, is a **seed**; the kingdom comes by the **growth** of the indwelling Christ in us—Mark 4:26; Luke 17:20-24; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
- E. We must **give the Lord our full cooperation for the inward operation of His growth process in us** so that we may hasten His coming—Gal. 1:15-16a; 2:20; 4:19; Rev. 19:7; 2 Pet. 3:11-12; cf. Luke 12:32.

LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S ECONOMY

Many saints are still concerned with being spiritual, scriptural, holy, and victorious. As we have seen, these things are not God's economy. **God's economy is to sow into us a Person who is real, living, and present.** This is the reason that the New Testament tells us that through resurrection the Lord has become a life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45). The Lord as the Sower has sown Himself as the life-giving Spirit into us. **The life-giving Spirit within us is the seed that has been sown into our being.**

We need to be impressed with the fact that in His economy God does not care for anything other than Jesus Christ. God's New Testament economy is to sow this Person into our being so that **we may live a life that is fully according to God's economy.** Praise the Lord that the living Person of Christ has been sown into us! Now we can live according to God's New Testament economy. May we all pray concerning this life and have more fellowship regarding it. (Life-Study of Mark, Chapter 58, Section 3)

DAY 2

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.

The **growth of Christ as the seed of life** within us is **the process of the kingdom.** On the one hand, **we are in the kingdom**; on the other hand, **we are in the process of the kingdom.** We may use the growth of wheat as an illustration. In a wheat field seeds are sown into the soil. The seed then grows until the tender young sprouts appear. The growth continues until the sprouts bring forth ears, fruit, and eventually are fully ripened. Then there is the harvest of the field. This is a picture of the process and manifestation of the kingdom. Now we are in the process of the kingdom, for **today we have Christ as the seed of life growing within us.** Eventually, this growth will bring us to the harvest, and that harvest will be the full manifestation of the kingdom. (Conclusion of the New Testament, The (Msgs. 240-253), Chapter 1, Section 2)

- 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.

DAY 3

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.

DAY 4

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. 6:3-10; 2 Tim. 3:1-5.

DAY 5 & 6

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.

GOD'S HEART BEING DUPLICATED IN SAMUEL

...Samuel was **pure and single**. He was a Nazarite according to his mother's vow and was altogether **not self-seeking**. He **never sought to gain anything for himself**. He had no heart for anything besides God and God's elect. God loved Israel, and **His heart was duplicated in Samuel**.

Because God's heart was duplicated in Samuel, Samuel **did not care for his own interest or gain**. At the end, Samuel gained nothing but a tomb to be buried in. Due to the situation at the time, Samuel appointed his sons to be judges, but, contrary to Saul, he had no intention to build up a kingdom for them. His sons did not follow in his ways but went after unjust gain, took bribes, and perverted justice (1 Sam. 8:1-3). When the people asked Samuel to appoint a king, he was not offended by anything related to his sons; on the contrary, he was offended by their desire to replace God (vv. 4-7). Because he had no intention to build up a kingdom for his descendants, Samuel's concern was **not** for his children **but** for God's people. In such a situation it was easy for God to bring in the kingdom.

A PERSON WHO CARED ONLY FOR GOD AND FOR GOD'S INTEREST AND PROFIT

Samuel would never have cooperated with God if he had been a self-seeking person. As we will see in the next message, the day before Saul came to Samuel, God revealed to Samuel what He wanted him to do. God said to him, "*At about this time tomorrow I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him as the leader over My people Israel*" (9:16). When Saul and his servant came to Samuel, Samuel did exactly as God had instructed. He **did not care to gain anything for himself** or for his children.

Now we can see why Samuel was so useful in the hand of God. He had **no self-seeking nor any thought of self-gain**. Instead, as a Nazarite, who allowed no razor to come upon his head and who did not drink any wine, he was absolutely for God. He was happy to go wherever God wanted him to go and to do whatever God wanted him to do. He was a man according to God, a man according to God's heart. Therefore, he was a man whom God could use to carry out His economy.

We should not think that Samuel did not have any kind of human concept. One day Jehovah said to him, "*Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite; for I have selected for Myself a king among his sons*" (16:1b). When Samuel heard this, he said, "*How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me*" (v. 2a). This indicates that Samuel was very human and **had human concepts**. Nevertheless, he was **not a self-seeking person**. All of his seeking was for God and for God's elect. **He cared for God and for His interest and profit, and He prayed for God's people.** (Life-Study of 1 & 2 Samuel, Chapter 7, Section 2)