

Mark 4: 26-29; “The Full Head of Grain”, Session # 5 on the Parable of the Growing Seed, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on December 4th, 2022.

Mark 4: 26-29 – “And Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.” “For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.” “But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

Review –

So far we have looked at the seed being planted, and putting forth a Blade, and then that blade, after a time puts forth a head of grain.

1. The Blade becomes a head of grain by practicing righteousness and loving the brethren.

When the Christian Plant, the person who is planted together with Christ, is fed and watered by further preaching of the word, and further working of God’s grace in the heart, it will eventually become the full head of grain.

This “ear” or “head” of grain is what is going to eventually be harvested as a life lived unto God. But it takes time to grow up into Christ. The Christian will grow with a growth that is from God. But they themselves will help promote this growth as they go about to live their life in obedience to God’s word. They do this by faith in Christ, realizing that without His grace and strength and help, they can do nothing to cause their own growth. Therefore they strive to grow in obedience to God’s word, and they think and praying of how they can grow up into Christ-likeness. That is the way that a Christian can bear fruit unto God.

Psalm 1: 1-4 – “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.” “He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water; that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” “The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away.”

The “fruit” here in verse 3 is comparable to the head of grain in our parable. There will be a visible growth in righteousness, holiness, and truth as time goes by in the life of the true believer. We see how it is that the blade becomes the ear or the head of grain. The Christian who is pressing on to maturity does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. He does not stand in the path of sinners. He does not sit in the seat of the scornful, but he rather delights himself in the word of God, the Bible, the law of the Lord. And in it, he meditates day and night.

When the Christian is consistent in this, they will be like a tree planted by rivers of water; and their leaf, or their profession of faith will not wither, so that people look at their life and conclude that the life of Christ really is in them. Their leaf will be green and will not wither. Fruit will be brought forth in its season. And as a result of this pressing on to know the Lord, they will prosper in whatever they undertake in the name of Christ and to the glory of God, and for the good of themselves and other people.

2. The Full Head of Grain shows increasing ripeness which is Christian maturity.

Colossians 1: 3-10 – “We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the

day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.” “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...”

So, I hope that you can see this wonderful language of verses 5 and 6 where Paul talks about the Colossian saints having “heard the word of the truth of the gospel, which had come to them in power. Paul says that same word of truth has come to all the world as well, and it (the word of truth, the gospel) was bringing forth fruit in all the world. **This is even as our Parable says** – The earth brings forth crops of itself. In the case of the saints at Colosse, this fruit (or this growth in grace and bringing forth good works and evidences of grace in the fruit of the Spirit, in the love of the brethren, had been taking place since the day they heard and knew the grace of God in truth. This is the head of grain, when saints mature in this good fashion; when you become fruitful in every good work and you increase in the knowledge of God.

1st Peter 1: 22-25 – “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass.” “The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

We see here that the saints who Peter is writing to those believers who had purified their souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit’s working, and help to them and with them. This resulted in a sincere love of the brethren. But Peter tells them to grow up into Christ by loving one another fervently with a pure heart. And he tells them why they would be able to do this. They had been born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever. This shows a ripening in the head of grain when sincere love becomes fervent love of the brethren.

In contrast to this, all flesh, all unredeemed humanity, is as grass and the glory of man as the flower of grass. The unredeemed person’s life will wither and their beauty will fade and fall off the plant of their life. But the word of the Lord will be the means of growing and building the saint’s life to ripe fruition, and eternal life.

Galatians 6: 2-4 – “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” “For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.” “But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.” “For each one shall bear his own load.”

This shows growth and increasingly maturity in your living your Christian life, when you think about, and go about to, bear other Christian’s burdens. This shows your desire to fulfill the law of Christ.

The law of Christ is found in John 13:34-35 – “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

Now, if a person does not want to do this, to think about the burdens of other people around you, especially the brethren, it means that you think that you are something when you are nothing and you are deceiving yourself. Because if you will examine your own work, and you can see that there is real concern for other Christians and other people around you, for the material, their spiritual and their eternal welfare, and how you in particular can help them, that shows maturity.

3. Progress to Maturity will Ultimately Depend Upon What You Sow To.

Galatians 6: 7-10 – “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” “For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

These verse are set in the context of Christians who are being taught the word of God learning to share in all good things with those who teach. If you do not do this, you are deceiving yourself and God says that He is not mocked in this regard. He has put those persons in the church, in your life, so that you will think about their needs and share with them in all the good things that you have.

But these verses go greatly beyond the context **in the principle** that Paul is showing to us here; that he who sows to the flesh will reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will reap everlasting life.” If you sow to the flesh, (the fleshly principle of the fallen human nature, in your desires or you actions, you will eventually reap corruption in your body, and also then fail to bring forth fruit unto God. A Christian must bring forth fruit to God in order to glorify God, and to arrive at greater maturity in regard to the way that they think and the way that they act.

2nd Peter 3: 17 and 18 – “You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.” “To Him be the glory both now and forever.” “Amen.”

The saints need to be on their guard against falling from their own steadfastness, and being led away with the error of the wicked. They must hold fast the truth, and persevere in faith, holiness, and righteousness by the grace of God which has been given them. They must consciously study to grow in that grace and in their knowledge of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May He have all the glory for all of our growth and whatever we are enabled to do by His grace, to obey and glorify God.

The Preacher’s Homiletical Commentary says this:

“The earth bringeth forth fruit of herself.” In other words, what is here taught is not the vitality of the seed, nor the activity of the two Sowers, but the productiveness of the soil. Only commit a seed to the earth, and “the earth will bring forth fruit of herself.” The growth of a wheat-field is a long and tedious process. Grain has its own laws, according to which it must germinate and shoot: you cannot make it grow otherwise than God appoints. It has its successive stages through which it is bound to pass: you cannot have an ear before its stalk is tall. It lies exposed to atmospheric influences, both bad and good: you cannot, with all your husbandry, hinder the wind from causing it to strike deeper root, or the frost from nipping its too tender shoots. In fact, the farmer can do very little in the matter. Only the great earth, stored by God with the chemical conditions of fruitfulness, and lying ever open by day and night to God’s atmospheric influences—to rain and dew, to sun and wind, to frost and electricity—only this wonderful earth carries on the process. In spite of so much that appears to war against the plant, damping the farmer’s hope, somehow the earth never fails after all to “bring forth fruit of herself.”