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The Growing Seed

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Delphinium - Pink, red, yellow - lavender. 206.
Delphinium - Blue - White - Violet.
Nasturtium - deep mag. red - salmon.
and
Sankeper -
Crimson - blue - deep red.

THE GROWING SEED (Parable) # 3

Mark 4:26-29

Parable mentioned only by Mark. Didn't copy from others.

INT: One of simplest of all Christ's 31 parabolic teachings.

Parable of Sower theme: Reception of the planted seed.

This parable: Power behind the growth of planted seed.

I. MAN'S PART IN SPREADING THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Vs. 26.

- A. God provides the seed, man does sowing. Mk. 16:15-16.
- B. Sowing impossible without seed-Bible. Rom. 1:16. Learn
- C. Idle grain produces no harvest. Erring Christians.
- D. Paul afraid to neglect his duty. I Cor. 9:16.

II. MAN IS HELPLESS TO DO GOD'S PART. Vs. 27. ^{LIFE} _{principle}

- A. Sower must be patient. Give seed time to grow. Sleep.
- B. Wonderful things happen underground in the spring.
- C. Gospel produces wonderful changes in the honest heart
- D. Science humbly bows to God in the matter of growth.
 - 1. Life process never photographed, copied, explained.
 - 2. Can only provide favorable circumstances-stand back
- E. Spiritual process just as awesome. John 3:8.
 - 1. Like wind, effects seen and felt but not explained
- F. Results of planting depends on Seed, Sower, land, God.

III. CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT FOLLOWS AN ORDERLY PATTERN. Vs. 28

- A. Blade always precedes the ear. Never an exception.
 - 1. Tiny blade first sign of fruit. First interest.
 - a. Seed lies dormant till warmed with love-sun.
 - b. Evidence of strong blade-healthy ground.
 - c. Blade, sign of better things to come. Patient.
- B. The ear always precedes the full grain on the ear.
 - 1. Signs of fruit stronger. Definite foundation now.
 - a. Activity more in open. Nearer kingdom.
 - b. When talking about it-close. Mark. 12:28-34.
 - c. Fruit will come in time. John 8:31-32.
- C. Full-grain on the ear evidences God's power.
 - 1. Intentions clear: fruit; is testimony of some power
 - ^{NEW} a. Fruit tender, needs more nourishment. Study.
 - b. Not expected to weather hard storms-question set
 - c. Power in this fruit to produce more. Matt. 28:20

IV. MAN HAS A PART IN THE HARVEST. Vs. 29

- A. Full-grown ear qualifies for harvest. Fully taught.
- B. Hearer-Believer qualified for baptism. Matt. 28. Mk. 16.
- C. Man's part to hear confession, baptize. Acts 8:36-39.
- D. God gives increase. I Cor. 3:5-9. Acts 2:41-47.

THE CHURCH (Paraphrase)
Mark 1:21-22

E. Fruit harvested as soon as plant ready.
1. Longer corn waits harder it gets.

INV: God expects a harvest today. II Cor. 6:2.
Some heard, believed. Should obey now.
If delay, hardening process could provide tragedy.

Erring: Ear starts growing-quits-sick, worthless.
Some day cast into the fire. R-P.

II
III
IV