

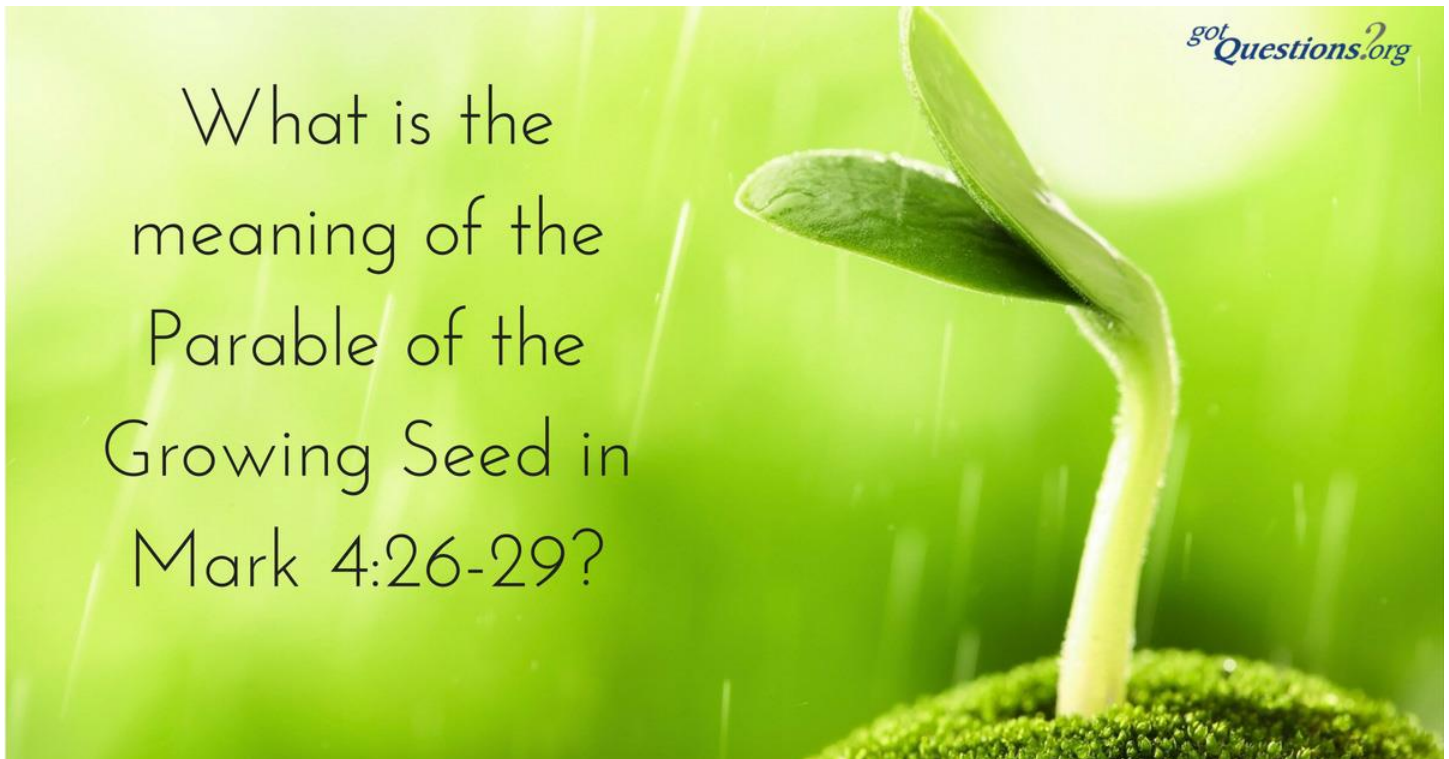
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## Pastor's Bible Study



### The Parable of the Seed Growing Secretly

*Servant Church of the Oranges*  
**SAINT MATTHEW**  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*God's Love for God's People*

**Tuesday, September 17, 2019**

**6:30 pm**

**I. THE SCHEDULE FOR OUR STUDY THROUGH JANUARY, 2020**

**PARABLES OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK AND THEIR PARALLELS**

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER - Mark 4:1–20, Matthew 13:3–23, Luke 8:5–15  
**Completed 5/22/19**

THE PARABLE OF THE SEED GROWING SECRETLY - Mark 4:26-29 [unique to Mark]  
**To Be Studied 9/17/19 & 9/18/19**

THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED - Mark 4:30-32, Matthew 13:31-32, Luke 13:18-19  
**Completed 9-10-19**

THE PARABLE OF THE TENANTS - Mark 12:1-11, Matthew 21:33-46, Luke 20:9-18  
**To Be Studied 10/1/19 & 10/2/19**

THE PARABLE OF THE BUDDING FIG TREE - Mark 13:28-32, Matthew 24:32-36, Luke 21:29-33  
**Completed 7-20-19**

THE PARABLE OF THE FAITHFUL SERVANT - Mark 13:33-37, Matthew 24:42, Luke 12:35-48  
**To Be Studied 10/8/19 & 10/9/19**

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**PARABLES OF MATTHEW NOT FOUND IN MARK**

THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND TARES - Matthew 13:24-30  
**To Be Studied 10/15/19 & 10/16/19**

THE PARABLE OF THE LEAVEN - Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21  
**Completed 6-11-19**

THE PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE - Matthew 13:44  
**To Be Studied 10/22/19 & 10/23/19**

THE PARABLE OF THE PEARL - Matthew 13:45-46  
**To Be Studied 10/29/19 & 10/30/19**

THE PARABLE OF THE NET - Matthew 13:47-50  
**Completed 7-10-19**

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP - Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:3-7  
**To Be Studied 11/5/19 & 11/6/19**

THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT - Matthew 18:23-35 [unique to Matthew]

**Completed 5-14-19**

THE PARABLE OF THE LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD - Matthew 20:1-16 [unique to Matthew]

**To Be Studied 11/12/19 & 11/13/19**

THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS - Matthew 21:28-31 [unique to Matthew]

**Completed 7-31-19**

THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST/BANQUET - Matthew 22:1-14, Luke 14:15-24

**To Be Studied 11/19/19 & 11/20/19**

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS - Matthew 25:1-12 [unique to Matthew]

**To Be Studied 11/26/19 & 11/27/19**

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS - Matthew 25:14-25:30

**To Be Studied 12/3/19 & 12/4/19**

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**PARABLES OF LUKE NOT FOUND IN MARK OR MATTHEW**

THE PARABLE OF THE TWO DEBTORS - Luke 10:30-37 [unique to Luke]

**To Be Studied 12/10/19 & 12/11/19**

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN - Luke 10:30-37 [unique to Luke]

**Completed 7-6-19**

THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL - Luke 12:16-21

**To Be Studied 12/17/19 & 12/18/20**

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN - Luke 15:8-10 [unique to Luke]

**To Be Studied 1/7/20 & 1/8/20**

THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON - Luke 15:11-32 [unique to Luke]

**To Be Studied 1/14/20 & 1/15/20**

THE PARABLE OF THE UNJUST STEWARD - Luke 16:1-8 [unique to Luke]

**To Be Studied 1/21/20 & 1/22/20**

THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN AND THE BEGGAR LAZARUS - Luke 16:19-31 [unique to Luke]

**To Be Studied 1/28/20 & 1/29/20**

**II. WHY LOOK AT MARK'S PARABLES FIRST?**

## THE PARABLE OF THE SEED GROWING SECRETLY

Mark 4:26-29

### NIV 1984 (New International Version)

26 He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

### NKJV (New King James Version)

26 And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

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### CJB (Complete Jewish Bible)

26 And he said, “The Kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground. 27 Nights he sleeps, days he’s awake; and meanwhile the seeds sprout and grow — how, he doesn’t know. 28 By itself the soil produces a crop — first the stalk, then the head, and finally the full grain in the head. 29 But as soon as the crop is ready, the man comes with his sickle, because it’s harvest-time.”

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### MSG (The Message, Paraphrased)

26-29 Then Jesus said, “God’s kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows—he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps—harvest time!

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### NVI (Nueva Version Internacional)

26 Jesús continuó: «El reino de Dios se parece a quien esparce semilla en la tierra. 27 Sin que éste sepa cómo, y ya sea que duerma o esté despierto, día y noche brota y crece la semilla. 28 La tierra da fruto por sí sola; primero el tallo, luego la espiga, y después el grano lleno en la espiga. 29 Tan pronto como el grano está maduro, se le mete la hoz, pues ha llegado el tiempo de la cosecha.»

### III. ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT

- A. Another kingdom parable.
  - 1. Is the kingdom of God a place or an experience that we are striving to achieve or should we help “create” the kingdom of God now?
- B. This parable is unique to Mark’s Gospel

- C. Mark 4 seems to be populated with seed/soil/growth stories. Why such an emphasis?
  - 1. Vss. 1-9 – The Parable of the Four Types of Soil
  - 2. Vss. 10-25 – Explanation of the Parable of the Four Types of Soil
  - 3. Vss. 30-34 – The Parable of the Mustard Seed
- D. There is symbolism in this parable that needs to be interpreted. What do these symbols mean?
  - 1. The kingdom of God
  - 2. “A man”
  - 3. “Seed”
  - 4. “the ground, the soil”
  - 5. “grain; stalk, head, full kernel”
  - 6. “the sickle”
  - 7. “the harvest”

#### IV. LESSONS/SPIRITUAL & LIFE APPLICATIONS/QUESTIONS

- A. Can we help bring about the kingdom of God? If so, how?
- B. The “**seed**” needs to be scattered. Nothing gets planted or grows unless “**the seed**” gets scattered. What does this say about the importance/the effect of the Word of God?
- C. The Word (like the seed) has the power to work on its own. We have to “**trust the Word**” enough and not get in the way!
  - 1. The Word is ALWAYS working (“night and day”)
  - 2. The man has nothing to do with the growing of the seed.
- D. There will be many things about life and the faith that we just don’t understand. This is no reason to abandon the faith.
- E. Growth is an intentional, deliberate **process** with measureable results.
  - 1. Acts
- F. The purpose and point of seed planting and growth: developing a harvest.
  - 1. Harvesting makes room for more scattering, planting, growing.
- G. There are natural cycles that must be followed: scattering/planting →growing→harvesting→clearing→replenishing→scattering/planting→growing→etc...



Join us on the St. Matthew Prayer Line tomorrow morning at 6:30 am  
**(515) 604-9855, Access Code 886823#**