

THE PARABLES—Section 2, Part 2

Mark 4:26-29

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January 26, 2020



1. Spiritual fruit is the inevitable product of spiritual life:
 - Fruit of Attitude—"...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - Fruit of Behavior—"...the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God" (Philippians 1:11)
2. As you are faithful to sow the seed, God will be faithful to give a return.
3. Parables are life stories, using the realm of the known to teach something in the realm of the unknown.
4. When Jesus says, "the Kingdom of Heaven is like..." God is describing things that only God knows.
5. A distinguishing characteristic of a true Christian is that we listen to and obey the Word of God (Mark 4:9; Matthew 13:9). Because we have the presence of the Holy Spirit, God will illuminate our understanding.
6. This parable is answering a hard question: When the Gospel message is rejected, what then?
7. The greatest thing we have is the Word of God, which when received produces life (salvation).
8. 4:26 A wise disciple waits, confident that God will accomplish His work.
9. 4:26 The success of the message of the Cross does not depend upon our capacity, though we are responsible to scatter the seed. God is the one who brings power to produce life.
10. 4:27 It must to be understood in the hearts of all Christians that our job is to tell the truth about God's message and then let God do the work that only God can do.

SONG TITLES

"You Reign" words and music by Barry Graul, Bart Millard, and Steven Curtis Chapman
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"Praise to the Lord the Almighty" words and music by Joachim Neander, Travis Cottrell, and Paul Mills
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"Crown Him (Majesty)" words and music by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, George Job Elvey, Godfrey Thring, Matt Maher, and Matthew Bridges
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