

The Mystery of Kingdom of God

Mark 4:3-20

In the Gospel of John, the word Kingdom appears only 3 times... 2 times in the same chapter

In the Gospel of Mark, it appears 18 times. Since the Kingdom of God was a favorite theme of Jesus, that is surprising unless John uses a different word for this which indeed He does... "Life" or "Eternal life."

We discover that "Eternal life" in the Gospel of John means the same thing as the "Kingdom of God" in the other Gospels. In the Gospel of John, "Eternal Life" means "Knowing God" or relationship with God. Thus, the meaning of the "Kingdom of God" is to be found there.

What is meant then by the mystery of Kingdom of God? This is a major theme of Jesus parables. The first century Jews misunderstood the Kingdom of God. They were looking for a physical and geographical Kingdom, one that would invade our world, confront and conquer all evil and establish the rule of God. Jesus however brought a different understanding, the "Mystery of the Kingdom of God."

1. Mark 4:3-20

- a. Vs 3-9 – The Parable of the Sower
- b. Vs 10-13 – Jesus and His Disciples
- c. Vs 14-20 – The explanation

2. If this is "the Mystery of the Kingdom of God," what does it teach us?

- a. The Kingdom comes like a Sower sowing seed
- b. Not everyone responds to the kingdom the same
 - i. Different responses
 - ii. Some bear fruit
- c. Evil, temptation and trouble still exist
 - i. Satan takes the seed
 - ii. Problems persecution
 - iii. Worries of life, desire for other things
- d. Our choices matter – there would be no point in telling this parable if that simply describes how it is. Obviously, we have some choices in the matter!

3. Conclusion

While we may want the Kingdom of God to have come in a different way, it has come to us as an invitation to respond, like seed cast in the soil. Keeping in mind that The Kingdom of God and Eternal life (abundant life, the ever refreshing spring of water, rivers of living water, etc. ...), are the same thing, our part is clear... Let us choose!