

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

SERMON OUTLINE

By James M. Duncan, Pastor

MARCH 11, 2018

“The Parable of How The Seed Grows”

Mark 4:26-29

When Jesus was teaching people 2,000 years ago, every listener was familiar with planting seeds and harvesting crops. They couldn't just run down to King Soopers or Safeway and pick up food.

Our text today once again deals with sowing and harvest. Here is an unusual parable that our Lord gave and only Mark records it. It is another parable of action. Spiritual growth is divided into two parts - our part and God's part. We cannot do very much.

While the sower must put forth sufficient effort in preparing the soil and sowing the seed, he has no control over the harvest. Our work in ministry is guided by these same principles. We are called to share our faith, planting the seeds of the Gospel, but we have no control over the harvest.

We must always remember that the Lord is responsible for the harvest. We are not called or able to save anyone; we are called to present the Gospel. While we have limitations regarding the harvest, we must remain faithful to sow the good seed. Let's take a few moments to consider the principles of this parable as we think on: The Parable of How The Seed Grows.

I. THE ACTIVITY IN THE HARVEST (26-27) –

- The Sowing (26) –
- The Waiting (27) –
- The Hoping (27) –

This too is a difficult aspect for many who sow the Gospel seed. We must be careful not to pick green fruit. We have no control over the harvest.

II. THE MYSTERY IN THE HARVEST (27b-28) –

- The Germination (27b) – we are not called to produce life, just plant the seed!
- The Growth (28) –
- The Gain (28) –

III. THE MATURITY IN THE HARVEST (29) –

- The Patience Involved (29) –
- The Prudence Involved (29b) –
- The Providence Involved (29c) –

Remember, all the farmer had control over was the planting of the seed. God honored his faithfulness to sow and provided the increase. All glory for the harvest goes to God. While the Lord does expect us to faithfully sow, nowhere does He reveal that we are responsible for the production of fruit.

The law of growth operates in the spiritual realm. We can sow the seed of Scripture but, after that, it is up to the Spirit of God.

Sometimes little words spoken at the right time to the right person have a huge impact. One of my spiritual heroes is John Wesley who founded the Methodist Church. I even visited his home and grave in London and number of years ago, to dedicate my life to the example of his ministry.