

The Parable of the Seed Growing Mark 4:26-29

The Kingdom of Heaven (God) is like...

- a man who sowed good seed in his field
- a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field
- leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened
- treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid
- a merchant seeking beautiful pearls
- a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind
- a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old
- a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants
- a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard
- a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son
- a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them

The Parable of the Seed Growing

²⁶ And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

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Main points:

- The seed. It's power & characteristics (the Kingdom). How God works out His purposes
- The man. His role while seed is in the ground
- Certainty of (1) growth and (2) a fruitful harvest at just the right time

Truths to Apply

1. Humans do not grow the Kingdom. It's a Mystery.
2. Progress is temporarily hidden
3. Waiting accompanies the growth
4. Growth is powered by the Word of God. Seed = Word
5. Growth and reaping a harvest is assured -- and right on-time

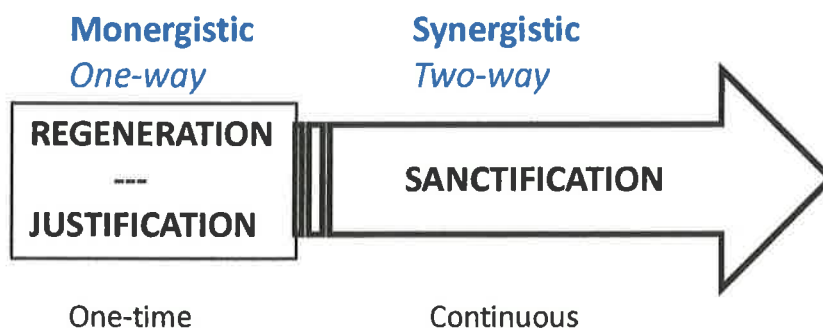
1. Humans do not grow the Kingdom. It's a Mystery.

Jesus & Nicodemus discussing being born again—and how it works:

John 3:5-8

⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

--- GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL ---



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Humans do not grow the Church—God does.

Matthew 16:18

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

1 Cor 3:5-9

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

John 6:44

⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.

"I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. Indeed, it was while I slept. I did nothing. The Word did it all."

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

2. Progress is Temporarily Hidden

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3. Waiting Accompanies the Growth

What kinds of things does "waiting on God" accomplish?

1 Peter 5:6-7

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

4. Growth is powered by the Word of God. Seed = Word

A Seed..... has the inherent properties within it to germinate & bear fruit
God's Word... has the inherent properties within it to germinate & bear fruit

God's Word has special properties so that, **on its own** it:

- **Converts** the unbelievers
- **Sanctifies** the saints
- **Empowers for salvation** (Rom 1:16)
- **Causes spiritual rebirth** (1 Peter 1:23-25)
- **Living & active**; sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb 4:12)
- **Equips us** for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- **Able to build us up** (individually & corporately) (Acts 20:32)

5. Growth and reaping a harvest is assured -- and right on-time

Philippians 1:6

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

PASSAGES FROM WAITING ON GOD by ANDREW MURRAY

1. God only asks us to yield, to consent, to wait upon Him, and He will do it all. Let us meditate and be still, until we see how right and blessed it is that God alone will do all.

2. As little as man could create himself, is he left to provide for himself.

3. He stirs up your nest. He disappoints your hopes. He brings down your confidence. He makes you fear and tremble as all your strength fails and you feel utterly weary and helpless. And, all the while He is spreading His strong wings for you to rest your weakness on and offering His everlasting Creator-strength to work in you. And all He asks is that you sink down in your weariness and wait on Him.

4. In praying, we are often occupied with ourselves, with our own needs, and our own efforts--in the presentation of them. In waiting upon God, the first thought is of the God upon whom we wait. We enter His presence, and feel we need just to be quiet so that He, as God, can overshadow us with Himself. Waiting on God gives Him time in His own way to come to us.

5. Before you pray, bow quietly before God, just to remember and realize who He is, how near He is, how certainly He can and will help. Just be still before Him, and allow His Holy Spirit to waken and stir in your soul the child-like disposition of absolute dependence and confident expectation. Wait upon God as a living Being, as the living God, who notices you. He is just longing to fill you with His salvation. Wait on God until you know you have met Him; prayer will then become so different.

6. He longs far more to bless us fully than we can desire it. But, as the husbandman has long patience until the fruit ripens, so God bows Himself to our slowness and bears long with us.

7. Give God His glory by resting in Him, by trusting Him fully, by waiting for Him. This patience honors Him greatly. It leaves Him, as God on the throne, to do His work. It yields self wholly into His hands. It lets God be God.

8. Do believe that in waiting on God, His greatness and your littleness suit and meet each other most wonderfully. Just bow in emptiness and poverty and utter weakness, in humility and meekness, and surrender to His will before His great glory, and be still. As you wait on Him, God draws near. He will reveal Himself as the God who will mightily fulfill His every promise. And, let your heart continually take up the song: "Blessed are they that wait for Him."

9. Remember these things when waiting on God:

- (a) Become even more still to realize God's presence
- (b) Become more conscious of your ignorance of what God's great plans may be
- (c) Have more faith in the certainty that God has greater things to show you