

## **Mark 4:26-29**

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

## Mark 4:21-25 Review

In Gospel of Mark chapter 4:21–25, the Lord Jesus unveils to the disciples that He Himself is the true lamp. This lamp is not meant to be hidden, but to be placed on the lampstand so that it may be manifested. The lampstand signifies the church. Therefore, the Lord's intention is to place Himself fully in the midst of the church—to serve the church, to supply the church, and to strengthen the church. That is why, even though Christ has already been victorious and has ascended, He still saves the church to the uttermost (Hebrews 7:24), and continually intercedes for us (Romans 8:34).

Why does Christ cherish the church so deeply? Because the church is the mystery hidden throughout the ages in God's economy, the very desire of the Father's heart (Ephesians 3:10–11), His fullness (Ephesians 1:22–23), and His eternal purpose (Ephesians 1:9-11), which was revealed through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:5) in last days.

Moreover, we can see from Matthew 13:44-45, church is also every precious in Christ's sight. He is willing to pay the highest price to obtain it.

Therefore, anyone who desires to participate in this mystery cannot remain merely an observer on the land (Mark 4:1), but must actively commit themselves into it—offering themselves to be built together with all the saints as part of the church.

When we have such a heart to consecrate ourselves fully to God for this hidden mystery—the church—God will not withhold His reward. Just as when we read Mark 4:24–25, a key principle is revealed: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

It means that the extent of your blessing and experience from God is closely related to the measure of your offering to the church. The more you give yourself to the church, the more richly He will supply you. This also fulfills the promise of Scripture: a hundredfold in this age, and eternal life in the age to come (Mark 10:29–30).

### **The way the church grows is the principle of life**

Then in Mark 4:26–29, the Lord further reveals that the process of church being perfected and built up is not an outward work or a shortcut result, but a process of life. Just as seed is sown into the ground and the earth produces crops by itself—first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.

This shows that the growth of spiritual life is gradual, arising from the natural unfolding of life within, rather than being forced by outward effort or human acceleration.

Such growth is not an instant miracle, but a silent accumulation in time; it is not a sudden blaze of fire, but like grass and trees taking root quietly, sprouting day and night, gradually becoming full through the passage of time. This is the principle of church growth—everything is a matter of life.

The growth of the church has no shortcut; it cannot be rushed or achieved overnight. It is a slow shaping through faithful shepherding day by day, bearing fruit gradually in quietness and endurance.

## **From Working for God to the Flow of Life: Re-understanding the Service of the Church**

When we speak of the service of the church, many Christians today consider it simply to be working for God. This answer is incorrect. In order to understand what service truly is, we must first look at God's eternal plan.

God is a God of purpose, and He intends to accomplish that purpose. According to the revelation of the Bible, God has a plan to work Himself into a group of people so that He may be their life and that they may become His expression. Based on this plan, God created man.

Therefore, man is destined to receive God, to be filled with God, saturated with God, and permeated with God. Furthermore, man is to allow God to flow out from within him, thus becoming a living expression of God. This is a brief definition of serving. Anyone who want to serve for God must contact God, be filled with God, be possessed by God, and be fully gained by Him, so that he may be built together with others in the flow of God's life.

The natural concept in Christianity today is that if we want to love the Lord, we must work for Him. This is a religious and natural concept, not the revelation of the Bible. God's calling has never been for us merely to do something for Him. Rather, God's intention is that we would first open ourselves to Him, allowing Him to enter into us, fill us, and even overflow from within us until He gains every part of our being. Our entire being must be saturated and permeated with Him before we can be united with Him. We are not only to put Him on outwardly as power, but also

to be inwardly permeated with Him as everything. As a result, God will flow out from within us spontaneously, and we will be built together with others in this flow of life.

We must repeat: service is not merely working for God. God has no intention of calling us simply to do things for Him. What He desires is that we would open ourselves to Him, respond to His calling, and say, “Lord, here I am—not ready to work for You, but ready to be filled with You, to be gained by You, and to be one with You.” Unless we are united with Him, we cannot work for Him, nor can we truly function as a one serving for God. The primary function of serving is not to work, but to spend time in the Lord’s presence and be filled, saturated, and permeated with Him until he is one with the Lord in spirit.