

Mark 4:26-29

Then He said, “How shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it?

It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.”

The Unchanging Law: Every Seed After Its Kind

In Matthew 7:15–16, the Lord Jesus warns us to beware of false prophets. Outwardly they come in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. The Lord says that we can recognize them by their fruits. He then continues, “Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”

Here we see a very important principle: whether in spiritual matters or in the natural world, everything grows according to certain laws. For example, if grape seeds are sown in a field, they can only produce grapes; if apple seeds are sown, they will inevitably grow into apple trees. According to the laws established by God in creation, this can never change. It is impossible to sow grape seeds and reap apples, or sow apple seeds and reap grapes. To take another illustration, if human beings were to give birth not to humans but to cows, sheep, pigs, or dogs, that would be terrifying.

Abnormal growth of Mustard Seed

This same principle can be applied to the parables spoken by the Lord in Mark chapter 4. Jesus likens the kingdom of God to a mustard seed. According to the natural law established by God, such a seed should grow into a mustard plant, nothing more. It should never become a great tree. However, in verse 32, we see something abnormal: the mustard seed appears to have mutated and becomes a “great tree,” and even birds—signifying Satan (Mark 4:4, 15)—come and lodge in its branches. This abnormal growth is not the result of normal life development, but

rather the result of Satan's interference and corruption during the process of growth.

Satan's Work: Destroying God's Law

Brothers and sisters, we must see a crucial fact in the Scriptures: Satan, as God's adversary, always seeks to destroy the laws and order that God originally established.

For example, in Isaiah 11:6–8, a harmonious scene is described: "The wolf will dwell with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child will put his hand into the viper's den."

This harmony reflects the condition of God's original creation. As recorded in Genesis, after God created Adam, He commanded man to have dominion over the earth. At that time, the relationship between man and all living things, as well as among the creatures themselves, was harmonious. Adam could live in peace with all kinds of animals and even name them according to their nature (Genesis 2:19–20), demonstrating his clear understanding and authority over creation.

In those days, all living creatures on earth were not filled with violence and conflict as they are today. There was no mutual devouring among animals; everything existed in harmony under the order established by God. However, after Satan intervened and tempted man to fall, everything changed. The ground was cursed and began to produce thorns and thistles. The

relationships between man and animals, and among animals themselves, became hostile and destructive. Therefore, Romans 8:19–21 says: “For the creation eagerly awaits the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from the bondage of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” This shows that the present condition of creation is not God’s original intention, but the result of the fall, where everything has come under the law of corruption and curse. Under this law, all created things suffer and long to be delivered from the bondage of decay.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, it is not difficult to see that when Satan opposes God, his primary intention is to destroy everything God established in the beginning. Whatever originates from God’s original order and laws becomes the target of his attack and distortion. Just as man, created by God, was originally pure and without sin, and had a close and harmonious relationship with God, Satan sought to destroy this by tempting man to fall, injecting his “poison” into man, causing sin to enter and separating man from God. It was not until our Lord Jesus came to accomplish redemption that this situation began to be reversed. All who believe in His name are saved by God and receive eternal life.

Enemy's Corruption of Saint's Spiritual Life

Logically speaking, those who are redeemed and have received this new life should, by the nature of this divine life, love the Lord, follow Him, and even be willing to consecrate their entire lives to Him. This life should grow, mature, and ultimately conform us to the image of God's Son through the work of the Holy Spirit. This is the law of life.

However, in order to disrupt the normal operation of this divine and heavenly life, Satan continues to work, attempting to corrupt its proper development. As a result, today in the church, we often see failure, weakness, and even falling. This corresponds to the parable of the mustard seed in Mark chapter 4. The mustard seed should grow according to its nature, yet the Lord says it becomes a "great tree," with birds lodging in its branches. This reveals that the growth and development of the church on earth has often not fully followed the law of life and God's original intention. Instead, throughout history, many elements not of God have been mixed in, and even used by the enemy. The result is a system that outwardly appears large and impressive, yet inwardly contains many things that are not of God, even bearing traces of Satan.