



Life Group Study Notes

"Kingdom Come"

Pastor James Lowe - January 21, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What are some things you are hoping for this year?
- What are some words God has spoken to you that have come to pass?
- What are some things that you are continuing to believe God for in your life?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Mark 4:10—13 “And when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked him about the parables. And He said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables. So that “they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.” And He said to them, “ Do you understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?’

Did you know that Jesus has given us the secret to the kingdom of God? In every way God is seeking to help us prosper in our walk with Him as well as in our daily lives. How many of us truly access that secret? Are we content with just being saved? Or do we realize that God wants to take us much further than merely being saved. To have the secret of the kingdom and choose to not access it is like having a billion dollars in your bank account, and never making a withdrawal.

Mark 4:14—19 The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word and

it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

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 the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

So what is the secret of The Kingdom of God? Jesus had just spoken the parable of the sower and the seed. He said that the Kingdom of God was like a man scattering seed on the ground. Jesus explained that the seed is the word of God. The word of God is powerful, living and active, and sharper than any double-edged sword. The effect of the seed is based on the kind of soil the word lands on. The soil represents the condition of our heart. What kind of heart will you have in response to God’s word? When we read the word, or hear the word being taught or preached or spoken we must add our faith to the word. We must not only believe what we hear, but put it into practice in our daily lives. We are co-laborers with Christ. The Lord does the heavy lifting in our lives when it comes to this walk with God, but we must till the soil of our hearts. By putting ourselves in positions that allow us to receive the word, and then applying the word to our lives we can access the secret of The Kingdom of God not for selfish gain, but for God’s glory. Not to fall away because of trials and difficulties, but to persevere until the end.

Matthew 7:24 Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on the house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What are some ways that you can position yourself to better hear the word?
- What are some ways that you can add your faith to God’s word?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray that God would help us develop a heart with good soil that bears fruit forty, fifty, and a hundredfold.
- Pray that we would respond to God’s word with faith, by not only hearing God’s word but by also applying it to our lives.