



REPLENISHED – Growth Matters 6th June 2021 Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. Read [Mark 4:26-29](#)
2. What is the concept of this parable?
 - We need to consider this parable in the context of a set of teachings in [Mark 4:1-32](#) but also taking into consideration, that from verse 10 onwards, Jesus speaks to the disciples in private.
 - Jesus has just explained the parable of the soil to them, then He adds a couple of extra areas of teaching to expand what He wants to tell us.
 - It is set in the context of the parable of the Sower, or more accurately, the Hearers.

Engage:

3. The 3 Elements of the Sower (or the hearers): The Sower, The Seed and The Soil
 - The Sower is quite straightforward – he is sowing seed
 - The seed is quite straightforward – it is barley or wheat
 - The seed in Mark and Matthew is the word of the Kingdom, and in Luke it is the Word of God
4. What is the major focus of this parable?
5. What dictates the harvest?
6. The parable we are looking at is in one sense supplemental to the parable of the Sower, which defines what a parable is. It completes what happens to the good seed. It is one of 3 parables which reveal the mysteries of the Kingdom of God in terms of a Sowers work.
7. Read [Mark 4:24-25](#)
8. What does this scripture mean? What is it saying?

Framework:

9. Read [1 Peter 1:23-25](#)
 - Understanding the concept of the seed is important. Remember that in the parable of the Sower, the seed is a constant, the only variant was the soil.
 - This Kingdom seed is powerful, consistent and has great potential. And it's the same here, the focus is on the seed that has been sown, which is the Word of the Lord.

10. Read [Isaiah 40:6-8](#)
11. Read [Galatians 6:7-9](#)
12. In the general understanding of the parable of the Sower, the ground that is sown into is the heart. So, is it the same meaning here?
13. Where does the Kingdom grow?
14. It has been a consistent theme throughout this series that we are to sow into our own lives. Do you recognise how or where God has grown something in your life?

“Sometimes our lives need scarifying.

It’s interesting that Paul said, right at the end of Galatians, ‘I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.’

There are certain seeds that need stratifying or scarifying in order to germinate.
In other words, to bring forth their fruit they need rough treatment.”

Pastor Brian Greenaway

15. Have you ever thought that perhaps a time, trial or seasoning in your life could actually be for the benefit of others and not yourself?
16. Read [Romans 8:28-30](#)
17. How does the Kingdom of God grow?
 - The man sleeping and rising regularly gives us a picture of the rhythm of life; we continue consistently day by day. Keeping a good spiritual rhythm is important, but it cannot be separate from our normal life.
 - People talk about their spiritual life and their physical life as if they are separate. Our walk with God is what we do on a day-by-day basis; it is intertwined. There is not a separate spiritual life.
 - When we plant a seed, we don’t keep digging up the seed to look at it. It may start small...
 - We don’t know how God works; it is wondrous. His ways are not our ways. We are not God; we are not like Him. But we are made in His image.

“In the beginning God created man in His own image, and man has been trying to repay the favour ever since.”

Voltaire

- The mysterious works of God are a mystery to us, they are beyond our understanding. He often hides Himself, but then suddenly we see the fruit.
- No matter what happens in men’s minds or satan’s schemes, Gods Kingdom keeps growing. A seed has a mysterious power to grow, much like the Kingdom of God; it is growing, whether we are involved or not.
- When good seed falls on good ground it begins to work at once. When it is ready it is time for harvesting.