

The Real Takeaways from the Parable of The Sower

"Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

"You've been given insight into God's kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn't been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understandings flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That's why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight. In their present state they can stare till doomsday and not see it, listen till they're blue in the face and not get it. I don't want Isaiah's forecast repeated all over again:

'Your ears are open but you don't hear a thing. Your eyes are awake but you don't see a thing.

The people are blockheads!

They stick their fingers in their ears so they won't have to listen;

They screw their eyes shut so they won't have to look, so they won't have to deal with me face-to-face and let me heal them.'

"But you have God-blessed eyes-eyes that see! And God-blessed ears-ears that hear!"¹



I want to focus on a number of points so I can isolate what needs to be taken away (understood) from the intention of Jesus' teaching here.

(A) The message in the quote above is very clear. I'll come back to this at the end of this document.

(B) Looking at verse 11 in the Passion Translation we find the following, which is more like what the hearers in the 1st century would have understood:

*"You've been given the intimate experience of insight into the hidden truths and mysteries of the realm of heaven's kingdom, but they have not."*²

'Mysteries' here comes from the Greek word *musterion* it "is found twenty-seven times in the New Testament and means "secrets" or "mysteries." The mysteries of heaven's kingdom realm are spiritual insights into the nature and ways of God. Jesus Christ can only be fully understood by the spirit, not merely by the intellect of man. Jesus taught his disciples using the cryptic language of parables to move them beyond intellectual abilities and engage the spirit. If the listener had a hunger to learn with an open, teachable heart, then Jesus' words brought life and understanding. We must always be those who push aside our opinions and traditions to glean the deepest meaning of all that Jesus did and taught. See also Job 15:8; Proverbs 3:32; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:2; 4:3."³

NOTE: For more information on the secrets of the spirit realm and of Heaven that are rightfully ours, read my teaching, "Father's Secrets are for His Sons".⁴

(C) The use of "the Word of the Kingdom" in most English translations is unfortunate. Here is the expression in a number of other translations:

- "the message of the kingdom"⁵
- "the message about the Kingdom"⁶
- "the teaching about God's kingdom"⁷
- "the story of the Kingdom"⁸

'Word' is chosen in the translation process out of Christian convention. That is, it has deliberately been used

1 – Matthew 13:9-17 (The Message)

2 – Matthew 13:11 (The Passion Translation)

3 – classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matt+13%3A9-16&version=TPT#en-TPT-5024

4 – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Fathers-Secrets-are-for-His-Sons.pdf

5 – TPT, MOUNCE & J.B. Phillips' translation

6 – WE, GNT, NCV, NIV, NIVR, NLT, CEB & CEV

7 – ERV, ICB

8 – VOICE

by the translators because of their Christian worldview, not because they are accurately translating the received text. This is wrong because it's not what the hearers of Jesus' teaching would have understood it to mean.

This creates misunderstanding just as the use of the word 'command' in Jesus' statement: "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you"⁹. The Greek word used in the verse is *entellomai* (ἐντέλλομαι) meaning 'to enjoin' – i.e. 'to give charge', 'to put them in charge of'. That means that Jesus gave his disciples the obligation or responsibility to pass on to their disciples what he had taught them. The use of 'command' changes the relationship between Jesus (The King) and his people who are sons of the Kingdom. Even so, Jesus only gave one command to his disciples (according to the English translations), which was that they love one another.¹⁰

Interestingly, *entellomai* is used in the statement: "He shall give His angels **charge** over you, To keep you."¹¹ It should be easy from this to see why 'command' is not a good choice to use with what Jesus instructed his disciples and why it reinforces legalism in the minds of Christians.

This goes for 'command' in Hebrew in the OT as well – it has the same inference as Greek. Rod Bell writes about it: "I saw how the word for 'command' in Hebrew is the word *mitzvot*, and it can better be translated as 'charge'. Like when you charge someone with an important task. Less something you're supposed to do and if you don't do it you're going to be punished, and more like a sacred responsibility that speaks to your deepest, truest self."¹²

See how easy it is to redirect readers ideas by the choices made when translating?

So, it's a Kingdom parable about the knowledge of the Kingdom. It's about any and all knowledge of the Kingdom that's presented to people who don't know some or all of it.

The Takeaways

Here's what we can take away from Jesus' teaching here.

1. It's a Kingdom parable about the knowledge of the Kingdom, not about salvation, nor 'the word of God'.
2. The Kingdom has hidden knowledge, call 'mysteries', which the ignorant don't know about.
3. The obscured Kingdom knowledge is freely available to us (sons) and we should be wanting it.
4. The Kingdom knowledge includes truths that people are unaware of.
5. Spiritually renewed people (sons) are given insight by the Spirit into Heaven's truths.
6. Everyone who listens with an open heart to receive the understanding of the mysteries of the Kingdom will receive progressively more revelation until they have more than enough.¹³
7. Those who don't listen with an open, teachable heart, will have taken from them the understanding that they think they have.¹⁴ That's because it's in their mind and, therefore, it's not reality. When everything is revealed at The End, it will disappear from them because it will be replaced with the truth.

That's very different from the standard tack of the message of salvation that the parable is supposed to be all about.

Laurence

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9 – Matthew 28:20

10 – John 13:34

11 – Luke 4:10, Matthew 4:6

12 – Rob Bell (2020) "Everything is Spiritual: Who we are and what we're doing here" p:43 [kindle version]

www.amazon.com.au/Everything-Spiritual-Brief-Guide-Doing-ebook/dp/B086L5K4YT

13 – Matthew 13:12 (The Passion Translation)

14 – Matthew 13:12 (The Passion Translation)