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# The Parables of Jesus Christ: The Secret of the Seed

Harold Willmington

Liberty University, [hwillmington@liberty.edu](mailto:hwillmington@liberty.edu)

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# THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

## PARABLE THIRTEEN: The Secret of the Seed (Mk. 4:26-29)

### SURVEY

The farmer can sow and harvest the seed, but God alone produces the crop in three-fold fashion.

**First**, the leaf blade pushes up through the ground.

**Second**, the heads of wheat are formed.

**Finally**, the grain ripens.

### SIGNIFICANCE

This is the first parable to trace the actual spiritual growth of the Kingdom of Heaven.

### SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- As has been already observed, man sows and harvests but only God can grow the seed. Both Paul and James testify to this:  
*"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."* (1 Cor. 3:6-7)  
*"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."* (James 5:7)
- A spiritual application can be drawn along these lines here from the resurrection of Lazarus. Consider:
  1. Man's part:
    - a. The sowing – *"Take away the stone"* (Jn. 11:39).
    - b. The reaping – *"Loose him and let him go"* (Jn. 11:44).
  2. God's part:
    - a. The growing – *"Lazarus, come forth"* (Jn. 11:43).
- This parable describes the development of the Kingdom of God, that is to say, God's dealings with this world in both the physical and spiritual realms. It is a progressive thing. An analogy here can be seen in the divine progressive revelation of our Bible. God did not reveal all of its truths in the book of Genesis, or even in the Old Testament. Centuries were involved in its writing. But by the time one reaches the book of Revelation, the seed sprout in Genesis has become the fully developed plant.