



UNFOLDING
THE MYSTERIES
OF THE KINGDOM:

STUDIES IN THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Planting with Patience

Mark 4:26-29



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Kingdom —> Man

Seed —> Word (?)

Soil —> Men's Hearts (?)

Growth —> God's part, not ours

Harvest —> Obedience (?)



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Emphasis: God's part, not ours

- We plant, water, wait...small parts
- We witness amazing results
- We harvest at the right time
- God is working in ways we do not understand!



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Consider the following:

- 2 Timothy 2:6 - We work hard with God
- 2 Timothy 4:2 - We are prepared during all seasons
- James 5:7 - We patiently wait for God's work
- Colossians 1:28-29 - We are God's tools
- 1 Corinthians 3:6 - Ultimately, God causes the growth



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Lessons:

- Sow the seed - teach
- Cultivate (implied) - encourage
- Wait patiently in faith for God to work
- Harvest when it is time - bring them in!
- Whether planting (Romans 1:16-17) or being planted (James 1:21)



An Unmerciful Servant

Matthew 18:21-35



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King

Unmerciful Servant

Fellow Servant

Debt



UNFOLDING THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM:

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Emphasis: Forgiveness (between brethren)

- Reflects the true nature of God
- Motivates us to forgive others
- Must come from the heart-genuine
- Is without limit



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Consider the following:

- Romans 3:23 - We all need forgiveness
- Romans 1:28-32 - Lack of forgiveness is evil
- Ephesians 4:32 - Forgive as we are forgiven
- James 2:13 - Shows mercy



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Lessons:

- Our sins are great, and
 - Offenses committed against us are relatively small
 - God is generous in His forgiveness, and
 - So should we be
 - Our forgiveness from God depends upon it
- Matthew 6:14-15



Two Debtors

Luke 7:36-50



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Moneylender

Borrower (500 denarii)

Borrower (50 denarii)



UNFOLDING THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM:

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Emphasis: Forgiveness (from God)

- Everyone is in debt because of sin
- Sin is not relative
- Forgiveness is a gift
- We all need mercy



UNFOLDING THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM:

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Consider the following:

- James 2:10 - Sin in God's eyes
- Romans 6:23 - Forgiveness is a gift
- 1 John 1:9 - God's desire is to forgive
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 - The price for forgiveness was great



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Lessons:

- No one is worthy of forgiveness
- No one can repay this debt
- Not everyone grasps how serious their sin is
- God forgives those who ask

