

THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

When I systematically studied the Bible for those 3 1/2 years, I was amazed to see parallel passages and parallel books between the Old and New Testaments. An example is the book of Joshua and the book of Acts. Joshua was the entering the physical “Promised Land”, while the book of Acts is the entering into the spiritual “Promised Land”. Jesus made some very powerful statements about the importance of The Parable of the Sower, and to me they are like a parallel passage of Proverbs 1: 20-23. “Wisdom calls aloud in the streets, she raises her voice in the public squares; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech: “How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you.” Here Wisdom is crying out in the streets for people to come and learn. It essentially says, “Come and let me teach you some very important things”. Jesus was doing the same thing in His introduction to this parable. Before we look at the parable itself, I want to point out two compelling statements that Jesus made in His discussion of this parable with His disciples. **When asked about the meaning of this parable Jesus said that His parables had the secrets of the kingdom of God hidden in them and that this particular parable was critical in being able to understand all the other parables.** Jesus was in effect saying, “Listen to this, if you want to know the secrets of my kingdom.” His first statement proclaiming the importance of this parable is recorded in Luke 8:9-10. “His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you...” The second statement of Jesus regarding this parable is recorded in Mark 4:13. “Then Jesus said to them, ‘don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?’” The only conclusion I can make is that there is something very special about this parable that will help us to understand the rest of the parables. Because of these two statements of Jesus, I was very drawn to this parable. I prayed and searched with high expectation and I was not disappointed. Do you want Jesus to reveal the secrets of His kingdom to you? Have you asked Him? If you haven’t, I recommend you do so before you go any further.