



CHAPTER 5

**JESUS PULLED BACK
THE CURTAIN**

*And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know
the mystery of the kingdom of God.* Mark 4:11

As Jesus began to teach His disciples that day, He reached up with His spiritual hands (actually His words) and, taking a natural, simple, familiar-to-life example of seed, soil, rocks and birds, laid it all beside the spiritual truth. Then He reached up into the heavenlies, into the Spirit realm, and moved back the dividing line that kept the disciples from seeing into that realm.

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And what did they see there? Only what was to come? No, not at all. They were seeing what had been going on all along in the past and what was going on right that moment. The Kingdom of God had come.

What the disciples saw happening in the Spirit realm was nothing new. It had always been happening, but men were incapable of hearing it, seeing it or understanding it. “Now,” the Lord said to them, “let me pull the veil back so that you can see what’s happening.” And He did just that. The wonderful thing is that this curtain was pulled aside for all of us who love the Lord and desire to be part of His working in the earth. Unto *us* is given the mystery of the Kingdom.

THE CURTAIN HIDES A LOT FROM VIEW

When someone is seated in a theater, if the stage curtain is still drawn, the actors or performers may already be on stage, but the audience cannot see them. Those actors might be doing some last-minute rehearsing; they might be tweaking their costumes; or they might be just talking among themselves. Whatever the case, their actions are a mystery to the audience because the curtain keeps them concealed.

When the curtain is pulled, or closed, it cuts the audience off, for a time at least, from what’s going on behind the scenes. They might have an idea about what is happening there, but they can’t be sure. They may hear some noise coming from the stage area, and they may see someone bumping up against the curtain, but they

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can't know for certain what goes on behind its folds. The only way to know for sure what is happening behind the scenes is to have someone pull the curtain open and reveal the stage.

JESUS DID US THE FAVOR OF PARTING THE CURTAIN

In the case of God's Kingdom, what is now going on has always been going on, but we were oblivious to it. We couldn't see it because the curtains were closed. Jesus was now saying to His disciples, "Let me explain to you, through this parable, what's always been happening in the Spirit realm," and, with that, He pulled back the curtain for them (and us) to see behind the scenes.

Once a stage curtain has been opened, the audience begins to understand what it is they have been hearing and observing in shadow. Each little bump that came from the stage area now has meaning. Each little giggle and whisper is now understood. Before this moment, these little revelations only served to confuse everyone more.

And the same is true in the Spirit realm. As Jesus pulls the curtain back, He is showing us what has always been taking place. We just didn't understand it. Many things happening in the Spirit realm have been affecting you in the natural realm, and you didn't know it or understand it. You couldn't see what was happening because the spiritual curtains were drawn. Now, however, through this parable, Jesus pulls the curtain back and shows us what the Kingdom of God is like and

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how it functions. He shows us what has been going on and what is now going on in the Spirit realm.

The first thing the Lord revealed that day was the function and operation of His Kingdom and how to implement, enforce and invoke Kingdom principles in your personal life on a daily basis. The second thing he showed us through this parable is how the kingdom of Satan operates and how it has affected and is still affecting our daily lives. He shows us how these two kingdoms clash and reveals that one of them will prevail (depending on how we react to His teachings and depending on what we're willing to accept).

REVEALING THE MARK 4 PRINCIPLE

Part of the reason this Mark 4 Principle is so powerful is that God, through Jesus, began to show us what was behind the scenes, and once we have an understanding of what's happening behind the scenes, we're then able to walk clearly and confidently, with assurance and with power. When this happens, we suddenly know that we're walking exactly as God wants us to walk and living exactly as He wants us to live.

Also, we now have the assurance that we're walking exactly as the enemy does not want us to walk and living exactly as he does not want us to live. How wonderful! We are exercising authority over him through the power of Jesus in us, and we then begin to expand the dominion of God in this earth realm and to take back territory that Satan has laid claim to. That's what this teaching is all about.

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LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

In this fourth chapter of Mark, Jesus went on to give this teaching:

And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: but when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

Mark 4:30-32

And there was much more:

And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it. But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

Mark 4:33-34

As we noted earlier, the “*great multitude*” who heard the first teaching—of a sower sowing and then birds, hard earth, scorching heat, stones, vines and thorns doing their part to hinder the growth of that seed—was no longer there to hear these most intimate details. Who knows where they might have been? They left before they had any real understanding at all.

The second group, much smaller, was able to hear more details of what the Kingdom of God was like. That

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seed, Jesus told them, was His Word, and immediately after His Word is sown into our hearts, Satan comes by any and all means to see what he can do to hinder it.

To the many, Jesus spoke of hard ground and thieving birds, but it was only when He was alone with the twelve chosen disciples that He began to divulge all, to expound "*all things*," to pull back the curtain as it were.

WHO WERE THOSE WHO STAYED AND SOUGHT REVELATION?

Who were these disciples who stayed late and sought revelation from Jesus? The word *disciple* simply means "learners or students." These disciples, then, were those who were seriously following Jesus, not for anything He might give them or do for them, but for what they could learn from Him. They were eager to know more, eager to understand more, eager to become strong so that they could do His will. Consequently they wanted to learn about Jesus.

Another word for *disciple* is *follower*. These were followers of Jesus, and they were still there when everyone else had departed. They not only followed Him; they closely followed Him. They slept where He slept and ate where He ate. They were with Him around the clock. No wonder He chose to give them inside information! No wonder He chose to expound "*all things*" to them!

Has God changed in this respect? Not at all. He will do the same for us today as He did for those original disciples two thousand years ago. He is ready, willing and able, even desiring, to explain "*all things*" to those who are

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hungry to know about His Kingdom. If you will follow Him, you will learn of Him.

A REVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

This Mark 4 Principle that Jesus revealed to His disciples (and to us) is life-changing. It will absolutely revolutionize your way of thinking. There was a time when you walked defeated, without understanding of God or the enemy. You thought people, things or situations were your problem. Now, with the truth that this parable unlocks to you, you can walk as a person of total confidence, with the power of God operating in your life on a daily basis, expanding into the lives of your children and stopping the enemy from stealing from you what is rightfully yours. Wow! That's good.

The truths of this parable are now in operation. Jesus didn't pull the curtain back to tell us what would happen sometime in the future. When He pulled back that curtain in the Spirit realm, He revealed to us what has always been happening. God's Kingdom is at work right now in the earth.



