

HALF-TIME: BEING EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK

TODAY I WANT TO CONSIDER THE WORD **INSPIRATION**.

INSPIRATION:

1. THE PROCESS OF BEING MENTALLY STIMULATED TO DO OR FEEL SOMETHING **CREATIVE**.
2. THE DRAWING IN OF BREATH; INHALATION [SOUNDS ARE HEARD IN THE STETHESCOPE ON INSPIRATION]

Q: WHERE DOES OUR INSPIRATION COME FROM?

Q: HOW MIGHT WE BEGIN TO USE OUR IMAGINATION?

- **INSPIRATION:** IDEA, VISION, INCENTIVE
- **IMAGINATION:** INSPIRATION, VISION; POWER TO CREATE

- **20 WAYS TO STIMULATE CREATIVITY** – BE CURIOUS, SPONTANEOUS, TRY NEW THINGS!
- **10 FACTS ABOUT CRAYONS** – AMERICAS FAVORITE CRAYON COLOR IS BLUE

- BE CURIOUS, SPONTANEOUS, TRY NEW THINGS!
- EVERY CRAYON IS IMPORTANT TO AN ARTIST – EVERY SEED IS IMPORTANT TO GOD!

Q: WHY, MIGHT THIS BE OF VALUE TO YOU AND ME?

- ALL SCRIPTURE IS A DIVINE PRODUCT OF GOD’S BREATH (I.E. THE HOLY SPIRIT) AND SINCE GOD CONTINUES TO BREATH OUT UPON MAN, THESE SCRIPTURES CONTINUE TO SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD AND HELP US ALL TO KNOW THE FULLNESS OF GOD.

2 TIM.3: NASB

- 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
- 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.¹

The thought is not of God as breathing through Scripture, or of Scripture as breathing out God, but of God as having breathed out Scripture. Paul’s words mean, not that Scripture is inspiring (true though this is), but that Scripture is a divine product ...²

¹ [New American Standard Bible: 1995 update](#). (1995). (2 Ti 3:16–17). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

² Packer, J. I. (1996). [Inspiration](#). In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, & D. J. Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 507). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

MARK 4:26-29

Parable of the Seed

- 26 And He was saying, “The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil;
27 and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows—how, he himself does not know.
28 “The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.
29 “But when the crop permits, he immediately ^aputs in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”³

4:26–29 Jesus has already associated the kingdom with seed that grows (Mark 4:20), and He repeats that motif here (v. 28).⁴

IN OTHER WORDS, WE SEE THAT THE FARMER SCATTERS SEED ON THE GROUND – THE SEED SPROUTS AND GROWS – THE FARMER HARVESTS A CROP

Q: HOW DOES THE SEED SPROUT AND GROW – MAN DOES NOT KNOW.

ACCORDING TO **MARK 4**: ETERNITY (THE VERY KINGDOM OF GOD) IS ATTEMPTING TO GET ROOTED IN THE LIVES OF MEN. YET, THE DEVIL/SATAN HAS MADE IT HIS JOB TO DISRUPT THE VERY PLANS OF GOD.

THEREFORE, WHAT WE SHOULD BEGIN DOING TODAY/RIGHT NOW IS WORKING TO CARE FOR THE SEEDS THAT HAVE BEEN PLANTED.

- SEED FELL ON A **FOOTPATH**, AND THE BIRDS CAME AND ATE IT. [PEOPLE HEAR BUT SATAN TAKES IT AWAY AT ONCE]
- SEED FELL ON **SHALLOW SOIL** WITH UNDERLYING ROCK. SEED SPROUTED QUICKLY BUT CANNOT GROW BECAUSE THERE IS NO PLACE FOR IT TO TAKE ROOT. ANY TROUBLE OR PERSECUTION WOULD BRING REJECTION OF THE WORD.
- SEED FELL AMONG **THORNS**. OTHERS ALLOW CONCERN FOR THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE TO CHOKER OUT THE SPIRITUAL.
- SEED FELL ON **FERTILE SOIL**, AND THEY SPROUTED, GREW, AND PRODUCED A CROP THAT WAS 30, 60, AND EVEN A 100 TIMES AS MUCH AS HAD BEEN PLANTED.

³ [New American Standard Bible: 1995 update](#). (1995). (Mk 4:26–29). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

⁴ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Mk 4:26–29). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

THE WORD JESUS SPOKE WAS LIKE SEED SCATTERED BY A FARMER.

THOSE WHO HEAR JESUS SPEAK ARE LIKENED TO VARIOUS SOILS.

- **HARD SOIL:** PEOPLE HEAR, BUT SATAN TAKES IT IMMEDIATELY AWAY
- **SHALLOW SOIL:** THE WORD IS REJECTED BECAUSE THERE IS NO PLACE FOR IT TO ROOT
- **THORNY SOIL:** WITH THE HELP OF OTHERS THE WORD IS CHOKED OUT
- **GOOD SOIL:** THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE WORD, PRODUCE MUCH

Q: WHAT ARE THE SEEDS THAT HAVE BEGUN TO REVEAL THE KINGDOM OF GOD TO US?

- THE LOVE OF GOD, THE FATHER; THE LIFE OF JESUS, THE SON; THE LIGHT OF GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT
- GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, GRACE/GRACIOUS, GENEROUS/GENEROSITY, GRATEFULNESS
- HELPFUL, HOPEFUL, HARMLESS, HOSPITALITY, HUMILITY

The word Jesus spoke was like seed scattered by a farmer.

Those who hear Jesus are likened to various soils.

- **PATHWAY:** People hear the message, but Satan takes it away at once
- **ROCKS:** Some are like stony ground, on which **the seed initially sprouts but cannot grow because there is no place for it to take root.** Any trouble or persecution brings rejection of the Word.
- **THORNS:** Others allow concern for the affairs of this life to choke out the spiritual.
- **GOOD SOIL:** But on those who are “good soil” (responsive to the Word) it produces a rich crop.⁵

⁵ Richards, L. O. (1987). [*The teacher's commentary*](#) (p. 610). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.