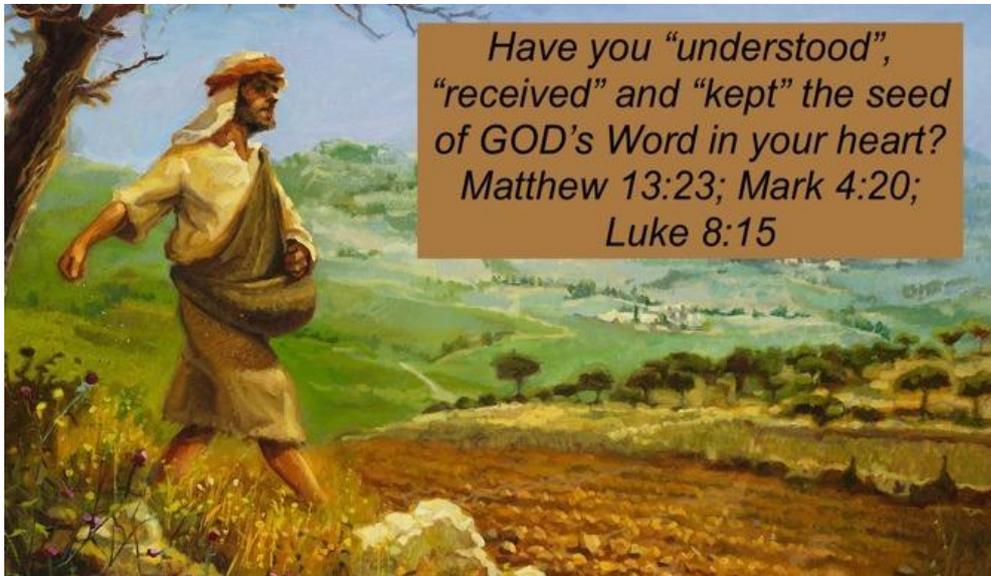


## HAVE YOU UNDERSTOOD, RECEIVED AND KEPT THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST?

Grace and Peace to you from the Philippines! Today is Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Our reading today is Mark Chapter 4. In today's chapter, Jesus tells several parables, i.e.: the parable of the sower, the parable of the candle, the unconscious growth and the parable of the mustard seed. The chapter ends with Jesus calming the storm.

My favorite and I believe most important parable is, "The Sower" vs. 13-20. Someone wisely said, "A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." That's true and many times it has a hidden meaning. Don't be alarmed if you do not understand the parables right away. Jesus' disciples did not understand also. Jesus had to explain what the parable meant since it was hidden from those who mock and disbelieve the truth.

In this parable, there are several metaphors. The "sower" represents Jesus and His followers. The "seed" is the Bible, and the "soil" is the hearts of people. Jesus gives a keyword to the only one that reproduces, which is the "good ground" or good soil. In Mark's Gospel it is the one to "receive it" v.20. Both Matthew and Luke also record this parable. In Matthew Chapter 13:23; Matthew uses the word, "understandeth it". To know Jesus as your Saviour you need to "understand" the Gospel. The Gospel is the Death, Burial and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, as complete payment for our sins. (See 1st Corinthians 15:1-4) There is nothing for us to do but change our way of thinking (repent) and trust in what JESUS did for us on the Cross. When HE died, HE said, "It is finished!" (John 19:30) How can you or I add to what GOD, the Son, did for us? When you "understand" that you are a sinner (Genesis 3; Romans 6:23) and realize the horrible punishment for one's sin (death in hell forever in Revelation 20:14,15;21:8) and repent and turn to Jesus (offered by God's wonderful grace) and trust Him by faith then you will receive the gift of eternal life.



*Have you "understood",  
"received" and "kept" the seed  
of GOD's Word in your heart?  
Matthew 13:23; Mark 4:20;  
Luke 8:15*

In today's reading Mark, the apostle, reports the same parable Jesus spoke but in Mark 4:20 he says a person must "receive" it. If you truly understand the Gospel then you will want to receive it. Also, Luke records this same parable, but the only word different is Luke says, in Luke 8:15, he must "keep" it. Therefore, according to these three verses for a person to

come to faith in Jesus Christ, he must "understand", "receive" and "keep", the Gospel of Christ according to GOD's Word. It's that simple.

In the last few verses in today's reading, Jesus and his disciples are in a boat in a storm and Jesus calms the storm. While reading this chapter, I was aware that Jesus, who has the power to calm storms, can calm any storm in my life....and yours also. Have a great day, and should you be going through a storm, just give it to Jesus. He is the Master and Creator of all things. (See John 1:1-3,14) If JESUS can calm a stormy sea HE can calm the storm in me.

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