

Mark 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

Analysis

He said unto them Unto you it is given to know mystery of kingdom of God but unto them that are without all things are done in parables. He said legei Jesus explains parable purpose. Unto you humin disciples chosen ones. It is given dedotai divine passive God gives. Know gnōnai understand perceive. Mystery mystērion hidden truth now revealed. Kingdom of God basileia tou theou God sovereign rule. But de contrast. Them that are without tois exō those outside disciple circle. All things panta hapanta all teaching. Are done ginetai occurs happens. In parables en parabolais comparison figures riddles. Insiders receive explanation outsiders remain in darkness. Grace discriminates enlightens chosen ones. God reveals truth selectively not universally. Parables simultaneously reveal and conceal. Reformed theology sees this as election God chooses to reveal truth to some while hardening others. Divine sovereignty in salvation.

Historical Context

Mystery in Scripture refers to truth previously hidden now revealed (Ephesians 3:3-9 Colossians 1:26-27). Kingdom mystery is that God rule comes through suffering Messiah not conquering warrior. Parables were common rabbinical teaching method. Jesus use unique parables both reveal to disciples and conceal from crowds. Fulfilled Isaiah 6:9-10 hear but not understand. Judicial hardening as consequence of prior rejection. Those who reject light receive darkness. Early church understood dual purpose of parables. Gospel proclaimed to all but only

elect respond with faith. Calvin emphasized reprobation as parallel to election. God passes over some in His mercy toward elect. Arminians struggle with these verses emphasizing human free will.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus explanation that parables simultaneously reveal and conceal demonstrate divine sovereignty in who understands gospel?
2. What does giving mystery to disciples but not outsiders teach about election and God discriminating grace?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς Ὑμῖν δέδοται γνῶναι τὸ
And he said unto them Unto you it is given to know G3588
G2532 G3004 G846 G5213 G1325 G1097

μυστήριον τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ· ἐκείνοις δὲ τοῖς
the mystery G3588 of the kingdom G932 G3588 of God G2316 unto them G1565 but G1161 G3588
G3466

ἔξω ἐν παραβολαῖς τὰ πάντα γίνεται
that are without in parables G3588 all these things are done G1096
G1854 G1722 G3850 G3956

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 11:25 (Parallel theme): At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Luke 8:10 (Kingdom): And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

Colossians 4:5 (Parallel theme): Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

1 John 5:20 (References God): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

1 Thessalonians 4:12 (Parallel theme): That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

Ephesians 1:9 (Parallel theme): Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

1 Timothy 3:7 (Parallel theme): Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Matthew 13:16 (Parallel theme): But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

Matthew 16:17 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (References God): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.