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Sermon by Prophet Kobus van Rensburg

THE KINGDOM IS AT HAND

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word...

Continue in the Word, continue in the Word...

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

It's the continuation in the Word that makes you free. Not just reading it; not just quoting it now and then; not just hearing it now and then. There has to be a continuation in the Word of the Living God. It's the Word, the knowledge of the truth of God's Word that will set you free.

John 8:33-36 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Say: "I want to be free indeed!" It all comes back again to the Word - you shall be free indeed!

John 8:37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

'My Word has no place in you.' Why did they want to kill Him? His Word didn't find a resting place in their hearts.

John 8:38-43 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, if ye were Abraham's children, ye would do

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the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard from God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word...

"Why don't you understand Me? It is because you cannot take the Word that I speak to you. It's not the understanding, but the fact that you are not accepting the Word." If they accepted the Word they would've understood, but because they didn't accept the Word, they didn't understand. Take the Word by faith, even when you still don't understand.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Jesus said if that if you do not accept His Word, the devil is your father.

John 8:47 He that is of God heareth God's words...

John 8:51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

John 8:52 ...If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste death.

John 10:1-6 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.



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They didn't understand because they didn't receive the word.

John 10:7-10 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Jesus said that if you continue or if you abide in His Word you will be set free. To really be free - to be set free; to be saved; to be delivered - you have to go through the door. Jesus said: "I am the door!" He also says that there are thieves who come to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus said, "I, Who am the door, Who brought you the Word, have come that you may have life and more abundantly. You'll be free indeed. You will have life abundantly, but there's a thief that comes..." Jesus HAS COME. It is finished, past tense. The thief COMES - continuous present tense. The thief comes, comes, comes, comes.... to steal, to kill and to destroy.

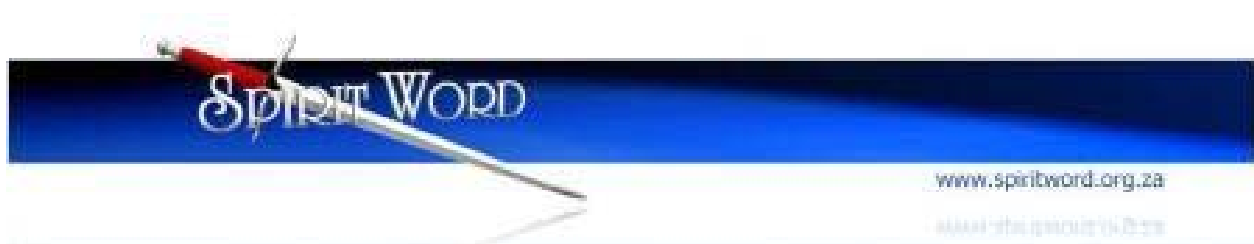
Look at Jesus' explanation of the parable of the sower.

Mark 4:13 And he said unto them, Do you not discern and understand this parable? How then is it possible for you to discern and understand all the parables?

If you understand the parable of the sower you will understand all the parables that Jesus told.

Mark 4:14 The sower sows the Word...

What is sowed? The Word.



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Mark 4:14-20 The sower sows the Word. And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, satan cometh immediatly, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediatly receive it with gladness; and have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediatly they are offended. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

Matthew 13:18-19 Listen then to the [meaning of the] parable of the sower: While anyone is hearing the word of the kingdom and does not grasp and comprehend it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the roadside...

The devil came to steal, kill and to destroy. Jesus came to give life.

Stealing = wayside

Killing = stony ground

Destroying = thorns

Life = good ground.

Draw a parallel between Mark 4 and John 8 where Jesus talked to them about how His Word doesn't find entrance in them. Satan is the father of those in whom the Word does not find entrance. Jesus says: "I am the door" but the context is the Word that came to set free. Jesus is the door and there are thieves who come.

There's a thief that comes immediatly after the Word is sown; to steal, to kill and to destroy the Word.

When the Word is stolen, it falls on the wayside - it's stolen before it found entrance into the heart of the hearer. When the Word is killed, it falls on the stony ground - it grows, but because there's not a lot of ground it dies. When the Word is destroyed, it falls among the thorns - it takes root and grows, but comes to a place where it's choked/destroyed by the thorns (cares of this world).



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What happens to the Word that enters your heart? Is it stolen or snatched away from you? Does it grow and then it's killed? Does it grow and then it's destroyed? It's a process. The one is stolen away immediately; the one is killed because there's not a lot of ground; the one is destroyed when it started to bear fruit, because the cares of this world choked it.

The Word that is spread or sown is the Word of the Kingdom. Jesus said that if you don't understand the Word of the Kingdom, the thief comes and he steals the Word, or he kills the Word, or he destroys the Word. You need to understand the Word of the Kingdom, not just the Word - the WORD OF THE KINGDOM. Kingdom is authority; power; God's reign on earth. To have a kingdom there must be a king.

Revelation 1:5-6 - He washed us with His blood and made us kings to rule on this earth.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

"Can it really be that God said? Can it really be that God spoke to you? Can it really be that God said something to you?"

Genesis 3:2- 3 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

You shall not eat it and you shall no touch it. You touch something with your hands. We know what happened then...

Genesis 3:22-23 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.



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God said: "Let's get him out of here before he stretches out his hand and eats." What is it that must be understood? The Word of the Kingdom. What is that? A seed that He sowed. It comes because of a door that's opened, that came to give us life and that is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 3:1-2 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand...

Matthew 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

John's preaching sounds like Jesus' preaching. Jesus said: "The devil is your father." John the Baptist says: "You serpents, vipers and snakes..."

Matthew 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruit meet for repentance:

He's preaching about, getting the kingdom because it's at hand', but says that you must bring forth fruit.

Matthew 3:9 And think not to say for yourselves, we have Abraham as our father.

What did they say in John 8? Abraham is our father, and Jesus replied saying that Abraham is not their father; but that the devil is! John the Baptist was already preaching it years before Jesus did, saying: "Do not think that Abraham is your father, because the axe is already at the root of the trees, therefore every tree which does not bring forth good fruit is chopped down.

Matthew 3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.



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Then Jesus came and He started preaching:

Mathew 4:16-17 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Jesus and John the Baptist preached that the kingdom is at hand; but there's fruit and there are trees and there's the Word. You must hear the Word and repent and then you must bear fruit otherwise the trees will be chopped down

Revelation 1:3 Blessed (happy, to be envied) is the man who reads aloud [in the assemblies] the word of this prophecy; and blessed (happy, to be envied) are those who hear [it read] and who keep themselves true to the things which are written in it [heeding them and laying them to heart], for the time [for them to be fulfilled] is near.

Revelation 1:5-6 And from Jesus Christ the faithful and trustworthy Witness, the Firstborn of the dead [first to be brought back to life] and the Prince (Ruler) of the kings of the earth. To Him Who ever loves us and has once [for all] loosed and freed us from our sins by His own blood, and formed us into a kingdom (a royal race)...

Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and companion (sharer and participator) with you in the tribulation and kingdom and patient endurance [which are] in Jesus Christ, was on the isle called Patmos, [banished] on account of [my witnessing to] the Word of God and the testimony (the proof, the evidence for Jesus Christ).

John was on the isle of Patmos because of the Word and because he loved Jesus. He testified for Jesus, he kept the Word; and that was because of the kingdom. He was on the isle of Patmos because of the Word, the testimony and of the kingdom.

Jesus appeared to him and he said that He had freed us indeed. "Whom the Son has set free is free indeed!" It is because of the Word. Him Who ever loves us and has once [for all] loosed and freed us from our sins by His own blood, and formed us into a kingdom (a royal race)...of priests. John says, "I want to tell you what's happening. I'm here



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because of this Word, this Jesus and this kingdom. I keep this Word, so if you want to keep this Word you will be blessed, happy and you will be envied!"

Revelation 3:7 ...and to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth

Refer to Matthew 16 and 18, where Jesus says, "I give you the keys of the kingdom. I give unto you the keys of the kingdom; if you now permit something, it must be what I permitted..."

Revelation 3:8(a) I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee and open door, and no man can shut it....

The door is open and because of this door you are now free indeed. If you receive this Word and continue in it, you will go in and out and have pastures and nothing will hurt you and nothing will harm you. You must watch out for the thief that will steal, kill and destroy. You must understand the Word of the kingdom which is at hand!

Revelation 3:8(b) ...no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Why was John on the isle of Patmos? Because of the Word, the testimony and the kingdom. What did he say? If you keep the Word, guard the message of the kingdom and not deny the Name of Jesus you will have an open door and nobody will ever be able to shut it. You will live a life of total freedom and you will be free indeed!

God said that we are going to perfection; we're going on to maturity; we're going to be the revealed sons of God; we're going to be manifested sons of God; we will be Christ to the earth!

In Revelation 1 Jesus says, "I have the keys. I was dead, but I am alive. It's open John, come! Let this Word fall into your hearts and then continue in this Word. How? By staying in the door.



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Take your right hand, put it in front of you and look at it. Take your left hand and touch it. Touch anything around you. The KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND. It's so close that you can just take hold of it. Jesus said that all these truths are hidden from the wise man, but it's open for children. If you don't become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom! What does a child do if you tell him, "Sit still and wait here and when I come back I'll give you a sweet"? He believes you, even if you are lying. Jesus is not lying. He says that this Word will truly set you free and then you shall be free indeed!

In Genesis God said, "Let's not allow them to touch the tree of life or the tree of good and evil. Let's take them out before they stretch out their hands and get a hold of the tree of life!" Jesus said in His preaching that it is now at hand! Just reach out and take hold of it. The kingdom is now at hand!