

Schooling His Disciples

Mark Chapter 4

Mar 4:1 1) Parable of the Sower of the Seed vs 1-20

He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land.

Mar 4:2 And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching,

- *Parable = "Para" means with or along side "Ballo" means to cast or to cast along side*
- *This tool in teaching is used to compare two or more objects. It is used to focus the hearer on a higher spiritual truth.*
- *Matthew 13:10-17 Jesus was asked why he speaks in parables. His answer helps us understand why he spoke in parables. Jesus tells us that people have become dull in their perception. He teaches in parables to open eyes and ears to see a greater spiritual truth. A parable is like football practice. A football player runs suicides, hits blocking sleds, tackling dummies and various drills. The exercises are not the important thing, but being strengthened and trained for that moment in the actual game to accomplish the goal is. So a parable is not to keep you blind but it is to strengthen your perception, like exercising your spirit.*
- *A parable is not to conceal it depends on the heart of the hearer. He who wants to hear will see and understand.*
- *The religious leaders have rejected Jesus and are not going to be teachable and will not see the greater spiritual truth. The disciples are teachable and are seeking the greater spiritual truth.*

Mar 4:3 "Listen {to this!} Behold, the sower went out to sow;

Mar 4:4 as he was sowing, some {seed} fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up.

- *1st seed - Good Seed but fell only on the hard surface and birds ate it.*

Mar 4:5 "Other {seed} fell on the rocky {ground} where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil.

Mar 4:6 "And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

- *2nd seed - Good Seed but fell on surface that looked like good soil but it wasn't. It had a thin layer of good soil, but underneath it was still hard. The seed could take no root. It couldn't survive the heat.*

Mar 4:7 "Other {seed} fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

- *3rd seed - Good Seed but fell on surface isn't cared for. It isn't tended or nurtured. Weeds and other unwanted plants overpower the good seed and the result is nothing but weeds.*

Mar 4:8 "Other {seeds} fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

- *4th seed - Good Seed fell on good soil that was prepared and nurtured and the produce was exceptional.*

Mar 4:9 And He was saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

- *LET HIM HEAR.*

Mar 4:10 As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, {began} asking Him {about} the parables.

- *What a great idea. If you don't understand the parable ASK HIM.*
- *You know what we do. We all look at each other and posture ourselves like we know what is going on. The whole time we really don't get it. ASK HIM!*

Mar 4:11 And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables,

Mar 4:12 so that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE, AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT RETURN AND BE FORGIVEN."

- *The disciples ask for an explanation. Jesus will give it to them but first he takes the opportunity to explain the purpose of speaking in parables.*
- *It is like the parable is the door to deeper truth. You can go through the door and press in for more information or understanding or you can hear the words of the parable and say that's nice or that's interesting and do nothing further.*

Mar 4:13 And He *said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?"

- *The understanding of parables is unlocked through keys. These keys are not really hidden or difficult to find. Scholars use the term EXPOSITIONAL CONSTANCY. This simply means a word or object in a parable that represents another object will constantly represent the same object. (i.e. Dove = Holy Spirit, Levin = Sin, Rock= Jesus, etc.)*

Mar 4:14 "The sower sows the word.

- *Sower sows the WORD not seed, but WORD! Through out this parable the seed sown is the Word*
- *Matthew 13:19 calls it the word of the kingdom*
- *Jesus is the sower. The Word of God is the seed. Jesus sows the Word. What else are we to do? We sow the Word. Not Word with straw, or manure. Just the Word.*
- *1 Peter 1:23 "we have been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever."*
- *Remember all the seed was GOOD SEED. The issue is the soil. How it is received.*

Mar 4:15 "These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

- *1st seed (vs 4) - By the wayside ...Hard Soil. Hardened by the morals and abuses of this world. They find they cannot trust the Word.*
- *Here we also see that Jesus tells us we have an enemy that will steal the hope, assurance, joy found through the Word of God if this Word is not received because of the hard heart..*

Mar 4:16 "In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky {places,} who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy;

Mar 4:17 and they have no {firm} root in themselves, but are {only} temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

- *2nd seed (vs 5-6) - Because of the shallow soil the Word is received gladly and everyone says that was a good sermon. But by Tuesday the work week has hit and when you tried to tell someone what was said on Sunday, they really don't care and think you are simpleminded and by Wednesday you are too tired to go to church and you don't have time to read the bible anyway.*
- *The soil is shallow. The Word doesn't enter deep in the heart and is part of the fiber of the man's heart. Persecution is promised to the Christian. For this shallow person, persecution will test his depth of integrity of God's Word..*

Mar 4:18 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,

Mar 4:19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

- *3rd seed (vs 7) - Here we see the Word starting to bear fruit but other things grow with this fruitful seed and chokes out the fruit.*
- *These thorns are listed as*
 - *Worries of this life emphasis on worries not on life. (unhealthy concern)*
 - *Deceitfulness of riches emphasis on deceitfulness not the riches. (unhealthy trust)*
 - *Desires for other things emphasis desires (lust KJV) not other things (unhealthy attention)*

Mar 4:20 "And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

- *4th seed - These*
 - *1 Hear the Word* - *2 Accept the Word*
 - *3 Bear Fruit* - *4 Differently*

- *This is commonly viewed as people receiving the Word. We can actually put faces to these four types of soils. And usually, the fourth type is ...ME! Everyone else is the bad soil.*
- *Here is a challenging thought. Perhaps your face is actually on all four soil types. Depending on the particular topic that the Word of God is addressing in your life, at times you may be the 4th soil receiving and bearing fruit. But sometimes you may be the 3rd soil or the 2nd or even the 1st not even receiving it because of abuses of the world has made it hard to trust the Word.*

Mar 4:21 **2) Parable of the Lamp and Lampstand** vs 21-25

And He was saying to them, "A lamp is not brought to be put under a basket, is it, or under a bed? Is it not {brought} to be put on the lampstand?"

Mar 4:22 "For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has {anything} been secret, but that it would come to light.

Mar 4:23 "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

- *This parable speaks of responsibility.*
- *A lamp gives light to a darkened situation. This could be as simple as illuminating a room to giving clarity to a lost soul.*
- *This lamp given to us should not be concealed but brought out for all to see.*
- *Jesus goes on to say "FOR NOTHING IS HIDDEN, EXCEPT TO BE REVEALED" Light was created to be seen. Truth and Light is given to you for you to share. It is our responsibility to share this light. We have kept the light of our Christianity / Salvation under a basket for too long. It is time to put it up on a lampstand. It will change how you are perceived and it will change the world around you.*

Mar 4:24 And He was saying to them, "Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides.

Mar 4:25 "For whoever has, to him {more} shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him."

- *"TAKE HEED WHAT YOU HEAR" -- We hear a lot of things. Good teaching, Friend's laughter, Dreams and hopes of our children. We also hear criticism, slander, crudeness, profanity, lies.*
- *"MORE SHALL BE GIVEN" to the one who measures and to the one who has. The contest is the Sower of the Seed. Speaking of how we hear the Word. If we receive the Word and press in to understand and seek Jesus and seek our conformity to Him more will be given. Yet if we do not seek Him and press in what we have will be taken away.*
- *It is common in people to pull back or with skepticism hold church or teaching and even relationships in the church at a distance because of a past issue (wound). But it is like a man who had surgery. Afterward he must use the limb that had the surgery even more than normal because there is a therapy to restore that limb that is a must. If he doesn't go to therapy he may have a limp or handicap that will be with him the rest of his life.*
- **John 1**
 - *Jesus is the light*
- **Lampstands In Revelation 1:13 -18**
 - *Son of Man stands in the midst of them*
 - *Vs 18 the lampstands are the Churches*

Mar 4:26 **3) Parable of the Seed on the Soil** vs 26-29 (Mark Only)

And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil;

- *Good Soil the fourth type of soil*

Mar 4:27 and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows--how, he

himself does not know.

- *The farmer goes on with life, but the seed will grow and do what it is designed to do with or without the farmer knowing the logistics of how this happens.*

Mar 4:28 "The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.

- *BY ITSELF" = automatos - moved by one's own impulse, or acting without the instigation or intervention of another*
- *Used one other time in Scripture in Acts 12:10 when Peter was in jail and an angel led him out and the gate opened "of it's own accord"*
- *Again, the Kingdom of God is in the Seed. Received by the proper attitude of the Good soil. How the life of this dead looking seed grows and bears fruit is a mystery to the farmer. The seed is not dependant on being understood as to how this happens. It happens.*

Mar 4:29 "But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

- *WHEN THE CROP PERMITS - the growth is based upon the seed and when it is ready we harvest.*

The Word of God Is The Only True Guide for Faith and Practice

- All Scripture is God-Breathed II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:19-21
- Profitable for Doctrine, Reproof, Correction, Righteousness II Timothy 3:16
- Living, Powerful, Sharper than Any Two-Edged Sword Hebrews 4:12
- Reveals the Thoughts and Intents of the Heart Hebrews 4:12
- Alone Has Power to Convert the Soul, Change the Life Psalm 19:7-11
- Spiritual Health: The Whole Counsel of God Acts 20:27
- Like a Tree Planted by the Rivers of Water Psalm 1:1-3
- Has Given To Us All Things Pertaining to Life and Godliness II Peter 1:3
- Protects Us from Sinning and from Satan Psalm 119:9-11, Proverbs 2, Ephesians 6:10-18,
- Our Pattern for a Spiritually Mature Life II Timothy 1:13, Titus 2:1-10
- Lamp Unto My Feet, Light Unto My Path Psalm 119:105
- Our Spiritual Food Job 23:12

Mar 4:30 **4) Parable of the Mustard Seed Grown** vs 30-34

And He said, "How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it?"

Mar 4:31 "{It is} like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil,

- *The smallest of things. A seed = a insignificant praise or thanksgiving and grow into a great blessing.*
- *How do we share the Gospel. Sometime with a lengthy power discussion. Other times the simplest suggestion or habit of life. (i.e.: carrying a bible. Praying before a meal public ally),*

Mar 4:32 yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR can NEST UNDER ITS SHADE."

- *Matthew 13 uses this parable in a series of parables that have negative connotations to them.*
- *Here we see this seed had an abnormal growth. A mustard plant is not a tree yet this one grows up as a tree with birds nesting in it. Birds = Satan.*
- *If the enemy cannot stop you he will pull you. Pull you into cooperation with him by giving you what you more than designed.*
 - Food Gluttony - Desire Lust
 - Happiness Drunkenness - Authority Corruption
 - Judgment Criticalness

Mar 4:33 With many such parables He was speaking the word to them, so far as they were able to hear it;

Mar 4:34 and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples.

- He explained to his disciples. We have seen in the past that the disciples were different than the followers. Disciples pressed in to learn, Followers hung around to glean what ever happened to fall their way but didn't press in any further.
- Jesus measured out more to the disciples than to the followers.

Mar 4:35 **5) The Perishing Learn About Faith** vs 35-41

On that day, when evening came, He *said to them, "Let us go over to the other side."

Taking
Jesus
Along

- The Elite or the Inner Circle has a tendency to become special in their own mind.
- We see it in pastors, leaders, worship leaders, elders, deacons who through various planning meetings have more information than others. Knowledge is power and Power corrupts and Absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Mar 4:36 Leaving the crowd, they *took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him.

- They TOOK HIM. They are in the driver's seat. They thought, Jesus, you are a carpenter. We are the seamen. Let us do our thing you kick back and relax
- Example of Paul in Acts 17 He heads off to Athens and leaves Silas & Timothy. When he arrives he sends for Silas and Timothy to come quickly. Something was different. Yet he preached one of his greatest sermons on Mars Hill. The people of Athens heard him mocked, but really didn't respond either way. He left Athens before Silas and Timothy arrived. In Chapter 18 the Lord spoke to Paul not to be afraid.
 - Paul went to Athens Alone
 - Paul was self confident He didn't need others (Silas & Timothy)
 - Many believe this was Paul's lowest point in his ministry)

Mar 4:37 And there *arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.

- Storms of correction. (Jonah) Storms of perfection. (in obedience)(These Disciples)

Mar 4:38 Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they *woke Him and *said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

When Jesus
Sleeps

- Where did their bold confidence go?
- They went from Boldly going where no man has gone before to "WE ARE PERISHING"
- "Sometimes the Lord calms the storm. Sometimes he lets the storm rage and calms his child."
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- Does The Lord Care?
- **Romans 8:28** "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose."
- **1 Peter 5:6-11** "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle [you]. To him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."
- One summer night during a severe thunderstorm a mother was tucking her small son into bed. She was about to turn the light off when he asked in a trembling voice, "Mommy, will you stay with me all night?" Smiling, the mother gave him a warm, reassuring hug and said tenderly, "I can't dear. I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence followed. At last it was broken by a shaky voice saying, "The big sissy!"
- What Woke the Lord up?

- The sound of the Storm?
- The Waves Crashing over the Boat?
- The Boat filling up with water?
- The Disciples fighting the storm? Bailing the Water out?
- Or The voice of those who have come to the end of their ability / the end of their life?

Mar 4:39 And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.

When Jesus
Stands up

- *Hush = Peace or Be Quiet Be stilled = Be Muzzeled*
- *Instantly a calm came over the sea. The Storm obeyed the Lord. Does the storm in your life obey our Lord?*
- *It is interesting that the choice of the words used was to quite the noise or sound of the storm. What we listen to will either build Faith or it will build Fear*

Mar 4:40 And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

Mar 4:41 They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

- *WHAT ARE THEY AFRAID OF ...A STORM OR THE CALM They were perishing before a deadly storm. But now they were even more afraid of the One who controls the most deadly storm*
- *Psalm 9:10 "The Fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom."*
- *Psalm 89:7-9 "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all [them that are] about him. O LORD God of hosts, who [is] a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee? Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them."*
- *it was God who was standing before them.*
- *Psalm 107:23-30 "These fishermen/seamen knew this passage"*
- *Pray for those who are in a storm that they would:*
 - *Not trust in their own ability*
 - *Be either corrected or perfected*
 - *Cry out to Jesus*
 - *Be in awe of the Lord*

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