

# Mark



## Lesson 4-Receiving the Seed of Heaven and Riding the Raging Seas Focus: Mark 4:1-41

### 1. Jesus shares the Parable of the Sower (Farmer sowing seed) (v.1-9)

- a. *Jesus taught the great multitude from a boat on the sea while they sat on the shore. In Christ's parable of the farmer he presents **four** different situations where the seed falls. **The seed was spread everywhere into the field.***
  - i. (v.4) Some fell by the **wayside** (and the birds ate it up)
  - ii. (v.5, 6) Some fell on **stony ground** (it sprang up quickly by had **no depth**) But the harshness of the sun scorched it and it shriveled and died.
  - iii. (v.7) Some **fell among thorns** (the thorns grew up and **choked it** so that no fruit came from it)
  - iv. (v.8) Other seed **fell on good ground** and sprang up (it brought forth **fruit**, some 30, some 60, some 100 fold increase)

### 2. Jesus explains the purpose of his parables (v.10-12)

- a. *Jesus here quotes from the book of Isaiah 6:9,10. (v.12) **God's teachings and parables are open to those genuinely seeking to know God's word. And to those who desire to do his will. But, to the wicked, and to those who insist on having their own proud ways, the parables of God are a mystery.** God had promised prophetically that His Son would teach the people in parables (Psalm 78:1-3; secondary reference is Matthew 13:35).*
  - i. "...I thank you...you have hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes." (Matthew 11:25).
  - ii. "...for God resists the proud, but He gives grace unto the humble..." (1 Peter 5:5)
  - iii. "...and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise, they shall understand" (Daniel 12:10).
  - iv. "...but the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness unto him..." (1 Corinthians 2:13,14).
  - v. "And you shall seek me and you shall find me, when..." (Jeremiah 29:13).
  - vi. Those men who proudly and stubbornly fight against the Holy Spirit (i.e. Mark 3:28-30), will not be open to receive the truth of God's word. **God does not just go around hiding His truth, as if He didn't want a soul to understand and be saved. The Bible is VERY clear about that** (Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16, 17). *This is a matter of our personal mind and heart, whether we will be open to hear, receive, and understand God's words to us. "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine..." (John 7:17).*

### 3. Jesus explains His parable's meaning to His disciples (v.13-20)

- a. God's **word** is sown into our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit impressing that truth upon our hearts and minds whenever the word of God is heard or read. God's word is powerful and will do a great work to transform our souls. (John 16:8, Holy Spirit's work).
- b. "The word of God is living and active..." (Hebrews 4:12); "My word...it shall not return unto me void...but it shall..." (Isaiah 55:11); "The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul" (Psalm 19:7).
- c. (v.15) **falling by the way side**—dies out immediately...no rooting.

- d. (v.16, 17) **Stony ground**—received with gladness right away, but had no root—**offended by other earthly pressures, persecution, etc.** (dies)
  - e. (v.18,19) **Among thorns**—cares of this life and world choke out the word that was in their hearts.
  - f. (v.20) **—GOOD GROUND—**and it springs up and starts producing fruit in Jesus Christ (ref. John 15:4,5). Some 30, 60, 100—each of us is at a different place in our growth in Christ...not all the same. And also in ability to share with others.
  - g. **Which group do you want to be in? Which one will you choose to be in? It is a choice!** (Where do you feel like you are at? Are you right now in danger of being in any group other than number 4? How can you fix this?)
4. **Being a lamp unto this dark world—having the light of God burning brightly in our souls (v.21-25)**
- a. The faith that God puts within our souls is to make a lighting difference in this dark world.
  - b. (v.24) The more you give to others, the more will be given to you! (You cannot out-give God in spiritual matters, or in any other matter, for that matter!) *Also, as we **hear and obey God's word**, then more light and truth will be given to our souls. **We must live by the light which God has shown us (and not neglect our duty to God).** Then, MORE will be given. **Why should God give us more, if we haven't made an effort to obey and follow what He's already given us?***
  - c. (v.25) If we have a true and experience with God, and we live by it, then, more will be given. If we do not have a true experience, then even what we have—our life—will be taken away. (Therefore, we must get these spiritual things).
5. **The Parable of the growing seed (v.26-29)** *The growth of our soul in spiritual life is a mystery that only God fully understands. We just experience it and watch it happen (like the farmer who has planted and watered the seed; yet he does not know the mystery of how this life grows). **Our faith experience with God is like the seed which is growing into a great plant. It is a process of growth** (and the farmer waits patiently for it, while he waters and cares for it). When the plant is ripe, then the harvest will come. (Jesus will come for the harvest when is it ripe! Rev.14:14,15).*
6. **Parable of the mustard seed (v.30-34).** *Our faith experience in God's Kingdom is like that little mustard seed that starts growing as a very small plant. It grows into a large bush or tree so that all of the birds can come and nest in it—now it can support not just its own life, but other life too. And so it is with our souls and God. We can grow in His Kingdom and become supportive and helpful to others! **Jesus spoke wisely "as they were able to hear it!"**—not everything at one time—and all in its proper sequence of course. (The close disciples of Christ received special instruction from Jesus—they were to carry on His words of truth after his return to heaven)*
7. **The Sea is stilled (v.35-41)** ***From teaching in the ship, to traveling in the ship—the day was now ended.** (but not for Christ and His disciples on that lake). This great storm came up on the sea and rocked the boat in which all were in. Yet, Jesus was asleep, peacefully trusting in God the father. When the storms of life come your way, remember that with Jesus in the boat, you may have true peace. Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves...and his doubting disciples too. They ought to have known from God's promises that all would be okay (i.e. Psalm 107:27-29). This storm obeyed the voice of Jesus!! Christ desires that people would listen so closely to Him and obey His word.*

### **Question (s) for the Heart:**

**Will you receive the seed of Jesus' word into the "good ground" of your heart (and let it grow to produce fruit unto eternal life with God)? \_\_\_\_\_ Will invite Jesus to be in the boat with you throughout every storm of life (and the peaceful times too)? \_\_\_\_\_**