

GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST, SERVANT OF GOD

1. THE WORK OF THE SERVANT OF GOD

- A. **MARK 4:1-9** AGAIN JESUS BEGAN TO TEACH BY THE LAKE. THE CROWD THAT GATHERED AROUND HIM WAS SO LARGE THAT HE GOT INTO A BOAT AND SAT IN IT OUT ON THE LAKE, WHILE ALL THE PEOPLE WERE ALONG THE SHORE AT THE WATER'S EDGE. ²HE TAUGHT THEM MANY THINGS BY PARABLES, AND IN HIS TEACHING SAID: ³"**LISTEN! A FARMER WENT OUT TO SOW HIS SEED.** ⁴AS HE WAS SCATTERING THE SEED, SOME FELL ALONG THE PATH, AND THE BIRDS CAME AND ATE IT UP. ⁵SOME FELL ON ROCKY PLACES, WHERE IT DID NOT HAVE MUCH SOIL. IT SPRANG UP QUICKLY, BECAUSE THE SOIL WAS SHALLOW. ⁶BUT WHEN THE SUN CAME UP, THE PLANTS WERE SCORCHED, AND THEY WITHERED BECAUSE THEY HAD NO ROOT. ⁷OTHER SEED FELL AMONG THORNS, WHICH GREW UP AND CHOKED THE PLANTS, SO THAT THEY DID NOT BEAR GRAIN. ⁸STILL OTHER SEED FELL ON GOOD SOIL. IT CAME UP, GREW AND PRODUCED A CROP, MULTIPLYING THIRTY, SIXTY, OR EVEN A HUNDRED TIMES." ⁹THEN JESUS SAID, "**HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR.**"
- I. YOU HEAR THAT JESUS IS CONDUCTING A LARGE MEETING. YOU GO TO THE MEETING AND YOU HEAR THE ABOVE, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
- (1) IT SOUNDS LIKE A FARM STORY, A STORY FOR A GARDNER, DID THEY MISS IT?
- (A) WHO WAS JESUS SPEAKING TO?
- (2) SHOULD THEY HAVE GOTTEN IT?
- (3) IF NOT WHAT SHOULD THEY HAVE DONE?
- II. NOTE THAT JESUS HAD TAUGHT HERE BEFORE!
- III. WHEN JESUS HAD FINISHED THIS THE FOURTH PARABLE OF THE BOOK OF MARK, HE SAID, "HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR"
- (1) WHAT DID HE MEAN?

2. UNDERSTANDING THE SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM

- A. **MARK 4:10-12** ¹⁰WHEN HE WAS ALONE, THE TWELVE AND THE OTHERS AROUND HIM ASKED HIM ABOUT THE PARABLES. ¹¹HE TOLD THEM, "**THE SECRET OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS BEEN GIVEN TO YOU. BUT TO THOSE ON THE OUTSIDE EVERYTHING IS SAID IN PARABLES** ¹²SO THAT, " 'THEY MAY BE EVER SEEING BUT NEVER PERCEIVING, AND EVER HEARING BUT NEVER UNDERSTANDING; OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT TURN AND BE FORGIVEN!'"
- I. THIRD OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY FULLFILLED
- (1) **ISAIAH 6:8-10** THEN I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD SAYING, "WHOM SHALL I SEND? AND WHO WILL GO FOR US?" AND I SAID, "HERE AM I. SEND ME!" ⁹HE SAID, "GO AND TELL THIS PEOPLE: " 'BE EVER HEARING, BUT NEVER UNDERSTANDING; BE EVER SEEING, BUT NEVER PERCEIVING.' ¹⁰ MAKE THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE CALLOUSED; MAKE THEIR EARS DULL AND CLOSE THEIR EYES. OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEARTS, AND TURN AND BE HEALED."
- II. IS JESUS SAYING HE TELLS PARABLES TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM SEEKING FORGIVENESS?

- III. WHO IS ON THE OUTSIDE?
- IV. WHO IS ON THE INSIDE?
- V. WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE?

3. THE WAY TO READ THE BIBLE

- A. MARK 4:13-20 ¹³THEN JESUS SAID TO THEM, "DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THIS PARABLE? HOW THEN WILL YOU UNDERSTAND ANY PARABLE? ¹⁴THE FARMER SOWS THE WORD. ¹⁵SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE SEED ALONG THE PATH, WHERE THE WORD IS SOWN. AS SOON AS THEY HEAR IT, SATAN COMES AND TAKES AWAY THE WORD THAT WAS SOWN IN THEM. ¹⁶OTHERS, LIKE SEED SOWN ON ROCKY PLACES, HEAR THE WORD AND AT ONCE RECEIVE IT WITH JOY. ¹⁷BUT SINCE THEY HAVE NO ROOT, THEY LAST ONLY A SHORT TIME. WHEN TROUBLE OR PERSECUTION COMES BECAUSE OF THE WORD, THEY QUICKLY FALL AWAY. ¹⁸STILL OTHERS, LIKE SEED SOWN AMONG THORNS, HEAR THE WORD; ¹⁹BUT THE WORRIES OF THIS LIFE, THE DECEITFULNESS OF WEALTH AND THE DESIRES FOR OTHER THINGS COME IN AND CHOKES THE WORD, MAKING IT UNFRUITFUL. ²⁰OTHERS, LIKE SEED SOWN ON GOOD SOIL, HEAR THE WORD, ACCEPT IT, AND PRODUCE A CROP--THIRTY, SIXTY OR EVEN A HUNDRED TIMES WHAT WAS SOWN."
- I. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE PEOPLE AND THE OTHERS?
- II. WHAT DOES A WILLINGNESS TO ASK INDICATE ABOUT A WILLINGNESS TO HEAR?
- III. ON WHAT GROUNDS THEN ARE THE PEOPLE INCLUDED OR EXCLUDED FROM THE SECRET OF THE KINGDOM?
- IV. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE MEANING OF THIS PARABLE IS?
- V. HOW CAN WE DETERMINE IF WE ARE GOOD SOIL?
- VI. HOW DO WE BECOME "GOOD SOIL"?
- VII. WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PARABLE?
- VIII. WHO IS THE SOWER?
- B. WHAT IS THE SECRET OF THE KINGDOM?
- I. JESUS, THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THEIR FOLLOWERS ARE THE FARMER, THE ONES WHO BRING THE KINGDOM BY THE SOWING OF THE WORD.
- II. HEAR THE WORD
 - (1) RESPONDING TO IT APPROPRIATELY
- III. HEARING THE WORD
 - (1) ACCEPTING IT AND ACTING ON IT.

4. THE GROWTH OF THE WORD OF GOD IN THE HEART OF MAN

- A. MARK 4:21-29 ²¹HE SAID TO THEM, "DO YOU BRING IN A LAMP TO PUT IT UNDER A BOWL OR A BED? INSTEAD, DON'T YOU PUT IT ON ITS STAND? ²²FOR WHATEVER IS HIDDEN IS MEANT TO BE DISCLOSED, AND WHATEVER IS CONCEALED IS MEANT TO BE BROUGHT OUT INTO THE OPEN. ²³IF ANYONE HAS EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR." ²⁴"CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHAT YOU HEAR," HE CONTINUED. "WITH THE MEASURE YOU USE, IT WILL BE MEASURED TO YOU--AND EVEN MORE. ²⁵WHOEVER HAS WILL BE GIVEN MORE; WHOEVER DOES NOT HAVE, EVEN WHAT HE HAS WILL BE TAKEN FROM HIM." ²⁶HE ALSO SAID, "THIS IS WHAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE. A MAN SCATTERS SEED ON THE GROUND. ²⁷NIGHT

AND DAY, WHETHER HE SLEEPS OR GETS UP, THE SEED SPROUTS AND GROWS, THOUGH HE DOES NOT KNOW HOW. ²⁸ALL BY ITSELF THE SOIL PRODUCES GRAIN--FIRST THE STALK, THEN THE HEAD, THEN THE FULL KERNEL IN THE HEAD. ²⁹AS SOON AS THE GRAIN IS RIPE, HE PUTS THE SICKLE TO IT, BECAUSE THE HARVEST HAS COME."

I. WHEN JESUS SAYS THAT "NOTHING IS HIDDEN", WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

II. JESUS GIVES US A WARNING, "HEAR WHAT YOU HEAR", PAY ATTENTION, LISTEN, IF YOU DO, YOU WILL LEARN MORE, IF YOU DO NOT, WHAT YOU HAVE WILL BE TAKEN FROM YOU!

(1) PAUL TELLS THAT PRECEPT IS BUILD ON PRECEPT, THAT IS THE SAME THING THAT JESUS IS TEACHING US HERE.

III. IF WE REJECT TRUTH, TRUTH WILL BE TAKEN FROM US.

IV. THE FIFTH PARABLE IS GIVEN THAT SHOWS THE NATURAL, UNCONSCIOUS, AND NORMAL GROWTH OF THE WORD OF THE KINGDOM IN THE HEARTS OF MEN.

(1) **ISAIAH 55:10-11** AS THE RAIN AND THE SNOW COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, AND DO NOT RETURN TO IT WITHOUT WATERING THE EARTH AND MAKING IT BUD AND FLOURISH, SO THAT IT YIELDS SEED FOR THE SOWER AND BREAD FOR THE EATER, ¹¹SO IS MY WORD THAT GOES OUT FROM MY MOUTH: IT WILL NOT RETURN TO ME EMPTY, BUT WILL ACCOMPLISH WHAT I DESIRE AND ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH I SENT IT.

5. THE KINGDOM OF GOD AMONG MEN

A. MARK 4:30-34 ³⁰AGAIN HE SAID, "WHAT SHALL WE SAY THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE, OR WHAT PARABLE SHALL WE USE TO DESCRIBE IT? ³¹IT IS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED, WHICH IS THE SMALLEST SEED YOU PLANT IN THE GROUND. ³²YET WHEN PLANTED, IT GROWS AND BECOMES THE LARGEST OF ALL GARDEN PLANTS, WITH SUCH BIG BRANCHES THAT THE BIRDS OF THE AIR CAN PERCH IN ITS SHADE." ³³WITH MANY SIMILAR PARABLES JESUS SPOKE THE WORD TO THEM, AS MUCH AS THEY COULD UNDERSTAND. ³⁴HE DID NOT SAY ANYTHING TO THEM WITHOUT USING A PARABLE. BUT WHEN HE WAS ALONE WITH HIS OWN DISCIPLES, HE EXPLAINED EVERYTHING.

I. HERE WE SEE THE SIXTH [MAN] PARABLE AND PROPHECY

II. WHILE THE OTHER PROPHECY IS ABOUT THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN THE HEARTS OF MEN, THIS PARABLE IS ABOUT THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD AMONG MEN. INSTEAD OF IT REMANING A REFUGE FOR TRUE BELIEVERS ONLY, IT WAS TO BECOME A PLACE FOR PROFESSED CHRISTIANS, UNGODLY MEN, AND EVEN DEMON POWER TO OPERATE.

(1) CAN YOU NAME A FEW EXAMPLE OF THIS IN OUR TIME?

III. THE BIRDS HERE REPRESENT SATANIC POWERS. THEY WILL TALK THE TALK. THEY ARE GOING TO CARRY ON THEIR WORK OF DECEPTION UNDER THE GUISE OF RELIGION AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVES OF GOD AND HIS KINGDOM. MANY FALSE RELIGIOUS, BACKSLIDDER CHURCHES, AND PROFESSED CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS POSE AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVES OF GOD AS THE ONLY TRUE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. BY THEIR DOCTRINES, LIVES, AND FRUIT THEY CAN BE DETECTED. OUR BATTLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THESE SATANIC POWERS.

IV. HOW DOES ALL THIS ILLUSTRATE THE POINT THAT JESUS IS MAKING ABOUT THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER?

6. AFTER THE WORD COMES THE TESTS!

- A. MARK 4:35-41 ³⁵THAT DAY WHEN EVENING CAME, HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "LET US GO OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE." ³⁶LEAVING THE CROWD BEHIND, THEY TOOK HIM ALONG, JUST AS HE WAS, IN THE BOAT. THERE WERE ALSO OTHER BOATS WITH HIM. ³⁷A FURIOUS SQUALL CAME UP, AND THE WAVES BROKE OVER THE BOAT, SO THAT IT WAS NEARLY SWAMPED. ³⁸JESUS WAS IN THE STERN, SLEEPING ON A CUSHION. THE DISCIPLES WOKE HIM AND SAID TO HIM, "TEACHER, DON'T YOU CARE IF WE DROWN?" ³⁹HE GOT UP, REBUKED THE WIND AND SAID TO THE WAVES, "QUIET! BE STILL!" THEN THE WIND DIED DOWN AND IT WAS COMPLETELY CALM. ⁴⁰HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID? DO YOU STILL HAVE NO FAITH?" ⁴¹THEY WERE TERRIFIED AND ASKED EACH OTHER, "WHO IS THIS? EVEN THE WIND AND THE WAVES OBEY HIM!"
- I. HERE WE SEE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE UNDER TEST, THE FIRST GROUP, HIS DISCIPLES [FOLLOWERS], NOTE HE DID NOT CALL THEM HIS APOSTLES.
- II. WHAT DID JESUS SAY TO DO, OR WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?
- III. WHAT IS IMPORTANCE OF THE WORDS "THAT DAY". THEY HAD JUST BEEN TAUGHT ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD TAKING ROOT. WHAT DID THE DISCIPLES HEAR?
- IV. WHAT DID THEY CALL HIM WHEN THEY WOKE HIM? HOW DO YOU SEE HIM?
- V. SAME DAY TEACHING, "QUIET! BE STILL!"
- (1) IF GOD
- (A) THEN JESUS REBUKED GOD AND HIS WORK.
- (2) IF SATAN, THEN ALL IS CLEAR.
- (A) SATAN IN THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR AND CAN CAUSE STORMS .
- VI. JESUS ASKS HIS FOLLOWERS, "WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID"
- (1) TO BE AFRAID IS A LACK OF FAITH IN GOD AND HIS PROVIDENCE.
- VII. AND THEY WERE TERRIFIED
- (1) THEY WENT FROM FEAR TO BEING TERRIFIED.
- (A) THEY WERE MORE AFRAID OF THE POWER THAT STOPPED THE STORM AND THEN THE POWER THAT SENT THE STORM.
- (I) THIS CAN BE SAID OF THE "FOLLOWERS" OF JESUS TODAY.
- VIII. WHAT MANNER OF MAN IS THIS?
- (1) HE WAS A MAN BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ALL FULLNESS.
- (2) SUCH MANIFESTATION OF POWER IS NORMAL TO THOSE WHO ARE ANOINTED WITH THE SPIRIT.
- (A) THESE SAME MEN, ONE DAY WILL KNOW THIS SPIRIT.
- (3) **JOHN 3:34** FOR THE ONE WHOM GOD HAS SENT SPEAKS THE WORDS OF GOD, FOR GOD GIVES THE SPIRIT WITHOUT LIMIT.
- IX. A LOOK AGAIN AT THE MAN WITH THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT.
- (1) **1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11** THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF GIFTS, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT. ⁵THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SERVICE, BUT THE SAME LORD. ⁶THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF WORKING, BUT THE SAME GOD WORKS ALL OF THEM IN ALL MEN. ⁷NOW TO EACH ONE THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT IS GIVEN FOR

THE COMMON GOOD. ⁸TO ONE THERE IS GIVEN THROUGH THE SPIRIT THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM, TO ANOTHER THE MESSAGE OF KNOWLEDGE BY MEANS OF THE SAME SPIRIT, ⁹TO ANOTHER FAITH BY THE SAME SPIRIT, TO ANOTHER GIFTS OF HEALING BY THAT ONE SPIRIT, ¹⁰TO ANOTHER MIRACULOUS POWERS, TO ANOTHER PROPHECY, TO ANOTHER DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN SPIRITS, TO ANOTHER SPEAKING IN DIFFERENT KINDS OF TONGUES, AND TO STILL ANOTHER THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES. ¹¹ALL THESE ARE THE WORK OF ONE AND THE SAME SPIRIT, AND HE GIVES THEM TO EACH ONE, JUST AS HE DETERMINES.

X. AND JESUS ASKS, DID YOU HEAR, DID YOU SEE?

(1) WHAT ABOUT A MAN, YOU AND ME, WHO HAS FAITH IN GOD?

(A) **MATTHEW 21:22** IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU WILL RECEIVE WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER."