

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

A STORY OF THE SON OF GOD

Mark 3:13-22

Jesus Appoints the Twelve

13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach 15 and to have authority to drive out demons. 16 These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), 17 James, son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means “sons of thunder”), 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Jesus Accused by His Family and by Teachers of the Law

20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.” 22 And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons, he is driving out demons.”

Questions For This Week

- 1. Read Mark 3:13-21. Jesus called the twelve to have a deeper look into His life and to gain a deeper understanding of His message. How does being a follower of Jesus shape your daily life? How often are you aware of this role?**
- 2. What does it mean to you that God chose you to be one of His followers despite your sins and weaknesses?**
- 3. Read Mark 3:22. Who is Beelzebul?**
- 4. Read Mark 3:28-29. What does Jesus mean when He says, “whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin?”**

Mark 4:1-20

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. ² He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along **the path**, and the birds otherwise, came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on **rocky** places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among **thorns**, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on **good soil**. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times." ⁹ Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." ¹⁰ When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He 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 ¹² so that, "they may be ever **seeing** but never **perceiving**, and ever **hearing** but never **understanding**; otherwise, they might turn and be forgiven!" ¹³ Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some 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. ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

In Mark 4:1-20 Jesus Tells A Parable

- 1. Describe the word “parable” in your own words.**
- 2. Do you ever catch yourself skimming the Scriptures or zoning out during a sermon? Many times, we assume we already know the information. What does this reveal about our attitude toward truth? (Read Isaiah 6:9-10)**
- 3. Explain the difference between “see”/“perceive” in 4:12.**
- 4. Explain the difference between “hear”/“understand” in 4:12.**
- 5. Read 4:14. What was the Sower spreading?**
- 6. With that in mind, what does the soil represent?**

In The Parable Of The Sower, Jesus Illustrates 4 Types of Heart Soils

- **The Path**- The gospel never penetrates these hearts, so it disappears from the surface of their understanding.
- **Rocky Soil** – A heart that hears the Word and immediately with joy receives it; yet is shallow and crumbles in trials or persecution.
- **Thorny Soil** – A heart that truly receives the Word, but the cares of the world and instant gratification choke the word; it is unfruitful.
- **Good Soil** – A heart that is transformed by the truth of the Word; it spreads the truth to as many people as will listen.

Time of Reflection

- 1. What is the threat to the seed on the thorny soil?**
- 2. Take a moment to reflect. What kind of soil best represents your heart right now?**
- 3. If it's the path, the rocky ground or the thorny ground, pray a short prayer asking God to soften your heart.**

Mark 4:21-34

A Lamp on a Stand

²¹ He 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? ²² For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.” ²⁴ “Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. ²⁵ Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.” ³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

The Parable of A Lamp on A Stand

- 1. Read 4:21. Why wouldn't someone put a lamp under a basket or a bed?**
- 2. What's the practical purpose of a lamp?**
- 3. What do you think the lamp represents in this parable?**

Mark 4:26-29

The Parable of the Growing Seed

26 “He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. **27** Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. **28** All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. **29** As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

- 1. What is Jesus saying about the kingdom?**
- 2. Read Isaiah 55:11. What does it say about the Word of God?**
- 3. How does that apply to this parable?**
- 4. Think of people you personally know and whose spiritual lives you admire. What kind of spiritual fruit have you seen growing in their lives?**

Mark 4:30-32

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

30 Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

➤ Summarize Jesus’ statements about the kingdom of God.

Mark 4:34

34 "He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything."

➤ **It was always Jesus' plan that His disciples would make disciples. The truth of the kingdom was spread from the twelve all around the world.**

➤ **And now it is our turn to spread the Good News.**

For Next Week

- **Read Mark 4:35-41 (Jesus Calms the Storm). Answer the following questions.**
- 1. How would you feel if you were a disciple in that boat?**
 - 2. Why is it ironic that the disciples asked Jesus, “Do you not care that we are perishing?”**
 - 3. Why is it so easy to lose sight of the truth when we are afraid?**
 - 4. Review 4:39. When Jesus woke up from his nap, where did He point His rebuke?**
 - 5. What does this reveal about the power and heart of Jesus?**
 - 6. Review 4:40. What correlation did Jesus draw between faith and fear?**