

THE GOSPEL OF
MARK®
servant **KING**

CHAPTER 4, PART 1

Verses 1-25

THE PARABLES

Great multitudes were coming to Jesus. They were following Him for many reasons. Many wanted to just touch Jesus so their physical needs would be met and/or for healing. Jesus wanted them to “hear” as in to hear and understand His words. Jesus begins to teach the multitudes using *parables*.

“The purpose of a parable is not to veil truth-but to illustrate truth. In each of the parables of Jesus, truths that were being illustrated, truths that the people would not listen to with just a straight teaching method. And so the parable form of teaching was adopted, so that they might continue to hear truth. Only now in a more subtle way.” *Pastor Chuck Smith*

MEMORY VERSE

And He said to them, “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.” **Mark 4:24**

Read Mark 4 out loud to yourself, listening to the words of Jesus. How many times did Jesus refer to how we hear and understand truth?

PARABLE OF THE SOILS

1. Jesus was by the sea. Describe the scene. Who was there? Why did He need the prepared boat? What did Jesus begin to do (vv.1-2)?

2. Jesus began to teach about a sower of seed. Describe what happened to the seed as it was sown along the:
 - a. Wayside (v.4)
 - b. Stony ground (vv.5-6)
 - c. Thorny ground (v.7)
 - d. Good ground (v.8)
3. Who is the sower is in this parable? (See Mark 4:14 and 1 Corinthians 3:5-9)
4. What did Jesus say when He finished teaching the parable to the crowd (v.9)?

To truly hear Jesus's words is to believe them, to use them immediately in decisions and attitudes and to base your life on them-your recreation and work, family plans and money matters, praying and singing. To hear Jesus words is to make Jesus your true Lord.

5. Those closest to Jesus wanted an explanation of the parable; how did He continue to teach these disciples about the parable (vv.11-12)?
6. Verse 12 is a summary of the prophecy from Isaiah 6:9-10. What condition of the heart is described here?

7. God reveals truth to people who will act on it and make it visible in their lives; therefore, Jesus's intent was to give understanding to the twelve disciples as He explained to them the meaning of the parables. What is the seed (v.14)?

What happens to the seed thrown by:

- a. The Wayside (v.15)?
 - b. The Stoneground (vv.16-17)?
 - c. Thorny ground (vv.18-19)?
 - d. Good ground (v.20)?
8. What does the soil of your heart look like today?
 9. Where do you need to cultivate the soil of your heart so the seed of God's Word can bear much fruit? 30-60-100-fold?

PARABLE OF THE LAMP

10. What help do you receive in understanding this parable of the lamp (vv.21-22)? (Also see Matt. 5:14-16)
11. Who is the lamp in this parable? (See John 8:12)

PERSONAL

How does your life show others how to find Jesus and live for Him? What do you need to change in your life to let your light shine brighter?

12. What phrase did Jesus use to admonish and get the attention of His disciples (v.23)?

13. How do you hear from the Lord as the Words of Jesus are being taught? Do you take heed for yourself?

14. What is the promise Jesus gives to those who take heed to what they hear (vv.24-25)?

15. What does Jesus mean “more will be given,” and “even what he has will be taken from him (v.25)?”

DWELL ON THIS

“There are three great enemies of the Christian: the world, the flesh, and the Devil” (Warren Wiersbe). Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Share something that spoke to you in these verses.

