

Jesus Christ, the Son of God Studies in the Gospel of Mark

Lesson 5: The Sower and the Seed Mark 4:1-20

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Soul Searching:
the Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers

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http://www.tbcpdx.org/curriculum/09-1_mark/soul_searching.wmv

What do you think about Jesus?

- ▶ Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- ▶ Jesus is the Heart of the Gospel
 - He is the Christ – the Savior
 - He is the Son of God – God in the flesh
- ▶ A message that demands a response

Outline of Mark

- ▶ The beginning: Mark 1:1-13
- ▶ The ministry of Jesus: Mark 1:14-10:52
- ▶ The work of Jesus: Mark 11:1-16:8
- ▶ The continuation: Mark 16:9-20

The fundamentals: *Mark 1:1-13*

- ▶ Jesus is the long promised Christ
- ▶ Jesus came to deliver from sin
- ▶ Jesus is the Son of God
- ▶ Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil

The ministry: Mark 1:14-3:12

- ▶ He came preaching
- ▶ He came calling disciples
- ▶ He cast out demons
- ▶ He healed diseases
- ▶ He obeyed the Law
- ▶ He forgives sins
- ▶ He came to call sinners to repentance
- ▶ He came to establish a New Covenant

Our Response to Him (Mark 3:13-35)

- ▶ Three responses:
 - Follow Him
 - Overt hostility
 - Friendly rejection
- ▶ A call to do the will of God

The Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-20)

- ▶ **Parable Presented (4:3-9)**
- ▶ **Explanation of Parables (4:1-2, 10-12)**
- ▶ **Interpretation of the Parable (4:13-20)**

Explanation of Parables (4:1-2, 10-12)

- ▶ He taught many things in parables (4:2)
 - Mark 3:23-27
 - Matthew 13:34-35
- ▶ A story in nature or human experience which teaches or illustrates spiritual truth
 - Fable
 - Allegory
 - Proverb

Purpose of Parables (Mark 4:10-12)

- ▶ A gracious gift of revelation
- ▶ Truth concerning the Kingdom of God
- ▶ **Mystery**
 - not revealed in previously
 - Colossians 1:26

Purpose of Parables (Mark 4:10-12)

- ▶ Conceal truth from some
- ▶ An explanation from Isaiah 6:9
- ▶ A judgment for sin
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14
 - Parable demonstrates judgment
 - Matthew 11:25-30

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed (4:3-9)

- ▶ A sower went out to sow (4:3)
- ▶ Sown on the wayside (4:4)
 - Eaten by the birds
- ▶ Sown on stony ground (4:5-6)
 - Sprang up immediately
 - Scorched by the sun
 - Withered – no root

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed (4:3-9)

- ▶ Sown among thorns (4:7)
 - Initial growth
 - Competition choked it out
 - No crop
- ▶ Sown on good ground (4:8)
 - Super-productive

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed (4:3-9)

- ▶ A call to understand (4:9)
- ▶ Disciples do not understand
- ▶ Jesus rebukes their lack of understanding
 - Mark 6:51-52; 7:18; 8:17, 21; 9:32
- ▶ Illumination required

Understanding the Parable (13-20)

- ▶ The sower sows the Word
 - The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God
 - A lesson on the response to the Word of God

Sown on the wayside (4:15)

- ▶ Hearing without reception – Ezekiel 33:30-33
- ▶ Satan takes away the Word
 - 2 Corinthians 4:4 – the God of this world blinds the minds of those who believe not
- ▶ What do we see?

Sown on stony ground (4:16-17)

- ▶ An immediate response with joy
- ▶ No root in themselves
 - A hard stony heart (Ezekiel 36:26)
 - No spiritual life so no fruit of the Spirit
 - James 1:22 – hearers only
- ▶ Temporary response, then they stumble
- ▶ Instruments of stumbling
 - Tribulation
 - Persecutions for the Word's sake
- ▶ What do we see?

Sown among thorns (4:18-19)

- ▶ Hear the word – receive
- ▶ Obstacles
 - Cares of this world
 - Deceitfulness of riches
 - Desires for other things
- ▶ Word choked out by the world
- ▶ Opposes the will of God (1 John 2:17)
- ▶ Become unfruitful
- ▶ What do we see?

Sown on good ground (4:20)

- ▶ Hear and accept the Word
- ▶ Bear fruit
 - Fruit of the Spirit
 - Holiness
 - Zeal
 - Mortification of the flesh
 - Denial of worldly desires
- ▶ What do we see?

The Lesson of the Parable

- ▶ Consider yourself
- ▶ Consider your brother in Christ
- ▶ Consider the unbeliever
- ▶ Beware the enemies of the Gospel