

# **Jesus Christ, the Son of God: Studies in the Gospel of Mark**

## **Parables for Hearing Ears**

### **Lesson 6**

**Mark 4:21-41**

**February 8, 2009**

# Mark's Purpose

- ▶ **Beginning of the Gospel  
of Jesus Christ, the Son of God**
- ▶ **Who is Jesus?**
- ▶ **What did He do?**

# Mark's Outline

- ▶ **The beginning: Mark 1:1-13**
- ▶ **The ministry of Jesus: Mark 1:14-10:52**
  - Key verse: Mark 8:29
- ▶ **The work of Jesus: Mark 11:1-16:8**
  - Key verse: Mark 10:45
- ▶ **The continuation: Mark 16:9-20**

# Review

- ▶ **The initial presentation of Jesus**
  - He is the *Messiah*
  - He is *God*
  - He came to deal with *Satan* and *sin*
  - He demands a *personal response*
- ▶ **Parables (11)**
  - *Brief parables (Mark 2:21-22; 3:23-27)*
  - *First extended parable – the Sower (Mark 4:1-20)*

# Parables for hearing ears

- Kingdom of God – the subject of parables
- Parable of Sower (4:1-20)
- Three Parables of the Kingdom (4:21-34)
- Stilling the Storm (4:35-41)

# The Kingdom of God

- ▶ **Parables are teaching Kingdom truth**  
**Subject of initial preaching (1:14-15)**  
**Parables teach about the Kingdom of God.**
  - **Mark 4:11**
  - **Matthew 13:19**
  - **Mark 4:26, 30**

# What is the Kingdom of God?

- **Hope of the Old Testament**
  - Ezekiel 37:21-28
  - Isaiah 24:23
  - Zechariah 9:9-10
  - Zechariah 14:9
  - Daniel 7:13-14

# What is the Kingdom of God?

- **Hope of the New Testament**
  - **Mark 14:25**
  - **Revelation 11:15**
  - **Revelation 20:1-6**
  - **Matthew 25:30-46**



# What is the Kingdom of God?

- ▶ **God's sovereignty over His creation**
  - Psalm 47
  - Psalm 93, 95-97
  - Psalm 145:13
- ▶ **God's sovereignty over kingdoms of the earth**
  - Daniel 4:17 – a holy one speaks
  - Daniel 4:34-35 – Nebuchadnezzar speaks

# What is the Kingdom of God?

## ▶ A Kingdom to come

- Olivet Discourse – Matthew 24-25
- A heavenly Kingdom – John 18:33-38

## ▶ A Kingdom now

- John 3:3, 5 – the new birth
- Matthew 19:23-26 – enter Kingdom of God = to be saved
- Luke 17:20-21 – Kingdom of God within

# What is the Kingdom of God?

- ▶ **forme fruste**

Stedman's Medical Dictionary – A partial, arrested, or unapparent form of disease

(French: unfinished form)

(BABEL FISH: rough form)

- ▶ **The dominion of Satan**

– 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19

- ▶ **The dominion of sin and the curse**

- ▶ **A future hope**

# What is the Kingdom of God?

- **A preliminary stage**

- The Millennial reign of Christ – Revelation 20
- Remnant of sin
- Satan bound – later to be released

# What is the Kingdom of God?

- ▶ **Salvation – personal**
- ▶ **Millennium – partial in the earth**
- ▶ **New Heaven and Earth – complete**
  
- ▶ **The parables address the “forme fruste” of the Kingdom of God**

# Parables of the Kingdom

- **Parable of the Sower (4:1-20)**
  - Primacy of the Word
  - Opponents of the Gospel
  - Efficacy of the Word
  - The Kingdom lesson

# Parables of the Kingdom

- **Parable of the Lamp (4:21-25)**  
The parable – a lamp brings light
- **Interpretation**  
Purpose of God is to reveal  
Revelation now is particular
- **The Kingdom Lesson**  
Take heed what you hear

# Parables of the Kingdom

- ▶ **Parable of Growing Seed (4:26-29)**  
The parable – mysterious growth
- ▶ **Interpretation**  
Luke 17:20 – Kingdom comes not with observation  
Providence of God  
Harvest will come
- ▶ **Kingdom Lesson**  
We live by faith, not sight



# Parables of the Kingdom

- ▶ **Parable of Mustard Seed (4:30-34)**

  - The parable – smallest seed yields greatest plant

- ▶ **Interpretation**

  - A small beginning does not predict the Kingdom

  - The Kingdom will be greater than our expectations

- ▶ **Kingdom Lesson**

  - The certainty of a coming universal kingdom.

  - Mysterious ways of God

  - “Hail thou once despised Jesus”

# **The Sea is Stilled (Mark 4:35-41)**

- **A parable in real life**

  - Jesus leads into the storm**

  - Jesus sleeps in the storm**

  - The disciples fear in the storm**

  - Jesus rebukes the wind and calms the sea**

  - Jesus rebukes the disciples**

  - The disciples fear the Lord**

# **The Sea is Stilled (Mark 4:35-41)**

- **The lesson of the miracle**

  - The Word of God is safe**

  - The storm – a trial of faith**

  - Jesus is sleeping – a false perception**

  - The sin of the disciples**

    - Fear – fear of what?**

    - Lack of faith – faith in what?**

  - Faith in Jesus – that He cared if they perished**

  - The fear of God**

# **Parables for Hearing Ears**

**The kingdom of God – our hope**

**The ways of God – our test**

**Jesus Christ, the Son of God – our faith**