

Mark 4:1-21

Intro: Today We Enter the Realm of The Parables of Jesus

V1-9 Ministering to the Multitude

1. Who was Jesus teaching? The Multitude
2. What is the first two things Jesus says – LISTEN! Behold! Both are in the Imperative Mood = Command!
3. What did he teach them with? A Parable - a placing of one thing by the side of another
4. So if this is the parable setting alongside something – what is he setting along side of?
 - * What He had been and was doing at that very moment – Him preaching/teaching them!
5. What did he was the last thing he said to them? He who has ears to hear, let him hear!
 - * Gave them the exhortation to “hear” but it was their choice – to use their ears to hear or to not!
 - Gives us the same choice!

V10-12

1. “The change of scene here is significant.” Bible Knowledge Commentary
 2. Who is Jesus teaching here? Those around Him with the 12, (they that were about⁴⁰¹² him)
 - * Gk - Peri - translates as “of” 148 times, “for” 61 times, “concerning” 40 times, “about” 31 times, “as touching” eight times, “touching” three times,
 3. To whom did Jesus say it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God? Those around/12
 - * **Mark 1:15** – “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand...”
 4. To You - “To Know” **1097 Gk** – *ginosko*
 - 1097: a knowledge grounded on personal experience
 - 1492: to see with the mind’s eye, signifies a clear and purely mental perception
 - 1987: a knowledge obtained by proximity to the thing known, cf. our understanding
 5. What did He say about those outside – The multitude...
 6. Did God not want them to see, perceive, understand, turn and be forgiven?
 - * Absolutely Not! He told them LISTEN! Behold...He has ears to hear, let him hear
- 2 Peter 3:9** God...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
 - * It was fully their choice - They only heard the “story” and didn’t get the meaning!

Application – Which group are we in?

1. Multitude – Come hear a story, leave
2. Those around, about, of, for, concerning... - Draw near, Spend time, touch, ask, grow, understand, apply

V13-20

- * If you don’t understand this parable, how understand all parables?
- * All the other parables can be understood by understanding this parable first!

Sower - sows the word (Of God) = Jesus teaching the Word of God 1:15, 2:1...

Wayside

1. Hear
2. Satan/Immediately takes away word that was sown in their hearts

Stony

1. Hear
2. “Immediately” Receive it w/gladness
3. No root in themselves, so endure only for a time
4. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution comes/for the word’s sake,
5. “Immediately” stumble - *skandalizo* /skan-dal-**id**-zo (v) - Passive = Made to Stumble!
 - * Why – Invite to Come Up/Prayer/New Believers Bible, Why invite to Baptized, Why invite to New Believers!

Among Thorns

1. Hear

2. a) The Cares of this world (Aion/Age) -

b) Deceitfulness/Riches - promises to satisfy, but never able to fulfill the promise. – Intended! Made to Break

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose" — Jim Elliot

c) Desire for Other Things – TV Shows, Houses, Toys, Success, Retirement, Relationships, Recreation,

Providing all these things for our kids

3. Enter In = Choke the Word

4. Becomes Unfruitful – Means it WAS and has BECOME Unfruitful!

Good Ground

1. Hear

2. Accept It

3. Bear Fruit – some 30 fold, some 60, some 100

“It is only reasonable to assume that the great bulk of the seed was sown on this kind of soil, and not a mere 25 per cent, as is sometimes asserted.” Wycliffe Bible Commentary

Application –

1. What is the intention of the sower sowing the seed – That is Would Bear Fruit!

* What is the intention of God sending forth His seed/Word? That is would Bear Fruit

* The quantity is not the issue – fruit or no fruit is the issue!

John 15:5-8⁵“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

2. What determines the fruitfulness of the seed

* The issue is not the seed, it is the same seed in all cases!

* The issue is the Ground/Heart in which it is sown!

* But **Jeremiah 17:9-10** says, ⁹“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

* “No man shall be condemned because he did not change his own heart, but because he did not cry out to God to change it...” Adam Clarke

Psalms 51:10¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Ezekiel 18:31³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?

Ezekiel 11:19-20¹⁹Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, ²⁰that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

Conclusion

Which Group are we?

Which soil are we?