

# Mark Chapter 4 (NASB)

## Chapter with four Parables

### Background:

Mark is a Gospel of action – miracles.

Jesus ½ way through his 3 year ministry.

Jesus has been rejected by the religious leaders.

His enemies rejected his teachings.

The public weren't interested with the exception of the miracles and healing.

Change his teaching styles-move to Parables.

Parables: truth beside a picture

Moves to parables to bring out the individual who is really seeking Salvation through Jesus blood.

Faith is a reality.

Parables are designed to test the spiritual responsiveness of the hearer. Want to hear – gives you a revelation. Don't want to hear – it conceals.

Purpose of the parables were to reveal truth, not to conceal it.

Mark 4:1 And He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very great multitude gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.  
V2 And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching,

### Parable #1 of the sower

V3 "Listen [to this]! Harken - Behold, the sower went out to sow;

V4 and it came about that as he was sowing, some [seed] **fell beside the road**, and the birds came and ate it up.

Beside the road – (Hard heart) enemy goes and takes it away

Birds – enemy, family friends, anyone against Christ.

V5 "And other [seed] fell on the rocky [ground] where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. V6 "And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

**Rocky ground – (Shallow heart) Receives but no firm ground,**

V7 "And other [seed] fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

**Thorns – (Overcrowded heart) Worries of this life chokes the life out. Too busy for spiritual things. 7 days a week work.**

**Major blunder to work 7 days a week.**

V8 "And other [seeds] fell into the good soil and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

V9 And He was saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

**Having Will to hear from Jesus – Intelligent will follow.**

**Jesus Teaching at the House represents the Nation of Israel, Sea represents the nations.**

**House to the sea (from his people to the nations)**

### Three degrees of fruit production: thirty, sixty and a hundredfold.

10 And as soon as He was alone, **His followers**, along with the **twelve**, [began] asking Him [about] the parables.

11 And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God; but those who are outside get everything in parables,

**Not saying that others will not get it. (condition of the heart)**

**The Holy Spirit job is to convict, we are not exclusive.**

12 in order that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE; AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND LEST THEY RETURN (converted) AND BE FORGIVEN." **Isaiah 6:9-10**

Disciples were allowed an explanation, peoples were not, other than the Holy Spirit working in their heart. (Willingness is the key) Are you willing?

13 And He \*said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? And how will you understand all the parables? **This parable is the key to all other parables.**

14 "The sower (Jesus) sows the word.

15 "And these are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. **(Hard Heart)**

16 "And in a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky [places,] who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy;

17 and they have no [firm] root in themselves, but are [only] temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away. **(Shallow Heart)**

18 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,

19 and the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. **(Too busy for Jesus)**

**Unsaved that do not accept the Gospel:**

20 "And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it, and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

**Thirty, sixty, hundredfold. – degree of faithfulness. As our heart responds we are able to receive fresh spiritual revelation.**

**Parable goes over twice – important. You have made a profession of faith to get in here. You decide the condition of your soil.**

**Parable #2 The candle – light creates responsibility**

21 And He was saying to them, "A lamp is not brought to be put under a peck-measure, is it, or under a bed? Is it not [brought] to be put on the lampstand?"

**Purpose of a parable is to enlighten men, not to hide it.**

22 "For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has [anything] been secret, but that it should come to light. **Come to Light – broad meaning (Gospel message, man's sins)**

23 "If any man has ears to hear, let him hear." (God/Faith demands action)

24 And He was saying to them, "Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it shall be measured to you; and more shall be given you besides.

**Take care – why the concern?** Non Christian religious – not readily invited into my home. **Listen to, Garbage in, garbage out Your standard of measure: are you are critical, loving, unforgiving, you will receive the same. You reap what you sow. Slang – what goes around comes around.**

25 "For whoever has, to him shall [more] be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him."

**Have - given more (faith, spiritual understanding, patience etc.)**

**Does not have – will loose any that he has.**

### **Parable #3 Casting the seed**

Power and action. The Holy Spirit is moving upon men

26 And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed (Word) upon the soil;  
27 and goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts up and grows--how, he himself does not know.

28 "The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.

29 "But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

**The Holy Spirit is the power behind growth. Our job: spread the Word, Live the Life**

### **Parable #4 Mustard Tree**

30 And He said, "How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it?

31 "[It is] like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil,

32 yet when it is sown, grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR can NEST UNDER ITS SHADE."

Mustard is not food it is a condiment. It is not to become a tree.

Growth of Christendom through human energy and not of the HS.

Big denominations, Branches and birds represent the enemy.

33 And with many such parables He was speaking the word to them as they were able to hear it;

34 and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples. **Line by line, precept by precept**

35 And on that day, when evening had come, He \*said to them, "Let us go over to the other side."  
Needing rest.

36 And leaving the multitude, they \*took Him along with them, just as He was, in the boat; and other boats were with Him.

37 And there \*arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.

38 And He Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they \*awoke Him and \*said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

39 And being aroused, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.

40 And He said to them, "Why are you so timid? How is it that you have no faith?"

41 And they became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

Afraid – what were they afraid of? Not the storm, they ere fisherman. But the miracle.

**Storms will come into our lives that helps us draw closer to Jesus.**

**Let's always remember in our life that Jesus is all powerful and can control and do anything.**

**We are the children of a big God!**