

# Calvary Chapel Cajon

## *Women's Bible Studies*

### Mark 4

### Lesson 3

*To what shall we liken the kingdom of God?*, Jesus asked in Mark 4:30. The Jews were hoping the Messiah would establish a new nation. Jesus was intent on establishing a new kingdom. In the fourth chapter of Mark, Jesus reveals through parables what God can do with very little. However, as you study the parables, notice that He gives man a place in the work that He does. Ending with the story of the storm at sea, the disciples *said to one another, "Who can this be..."*. It's Jesus, the one whom the new *kingdom* is all about.

#### DAY ONE: Read Mark 4

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

2. How would you title this chapter? Record your title on the **Chapter Titles Chart**.

3. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbols**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

*God, Jesus, immediately, kingdom of God, forgiven, sins*

New to this lesson: *hear(ing)*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Mark 4. Remember, as you mark the key words *God* and *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

4. Scan the many references to Jesus in this chapter. List five things revealed about Him.

5. The contrasting word *but* is used twelve times in Mark 4. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted and the significance of the contrast.

## DAY TWO: Read Mark 4:10-13,33-34

1. Before we look at the parables told by Jesus in Mark 4, let's look at Jesus' purpose for telling them. Jesus had just finished telling the parable of the sower. Mark 4:10 tells us *When He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable.* Using verses 11 and 12, what do you discover about Jesus' purpose in telling parables to:

### The disciples

Those on the *outside*

Challenge: What does Matthew 13:10-17 add to your understanding of Jesus' purpose for parables?

2. A parable is a story using comparisons to make a point. There is usually one key point or message to a parable. What two questions did Jesus ask the disciples in Mark 4:13?

- a. Apparently, it was possible for even the disciples to miss the message of a parable. How does this personally challenge you?

- b. Read Mark 4:33 and fill in the blanks:

And with many such parables He spoke the word \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- 1.) Jesus linked understanding with *hearing*. What kind of *hearing* is necessary to be able to understand a parable from the Bible?

- c. Read Jesus' words in Mark 4:3,9,23 and 24. What was His common command for those He spoke to?

- 1.) Why do you think He continued to reiterate the importance of *listening* and *hearing* His words?

### DAY THREE: The Parable of the Sower - Read Mark 4:1-9, 14-20

1. We will see the importance of *hearing* when Jesus interprets this parable. However, when Jesus told the parable, He did not use the word *hear*. Rather, He used the example of different types of ground upon which the sower sowed his seed. What happened to the seed when it fell:

*by the wayside?*

*on stony ground?*

*among thorns?*

*on good ground?*

2. Jesus explained this parable in verses 14-20. What does the *seed* represent? verse 14
  - a. What are some ways the Word of God can be *sown*?

3. The ground represents the different conditions of hearts of the people. How did Jesus describe the ones:

*by the wayside*

*sown on stony ground*

*sown among thorns*

*sown on good ground*

4. Notice each of these people *heard* the *word*. What was the difference in the way they *heard*?
5. What are some ways that Satan *takes away the word* before it has a chance to take root?

6. What troubles or persecutions can cause believers to fall away?
  
7. How can you make sure that the worries of life, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the other desires of the world will not choke the life out of your Christian walk?
  
8. What can you do to increase your fruit as a Christian?
  
9. What do you understand to be the message of the parable of the sower?

**DAY FOUR: The Light Under the Basket – Read Mark 4:21-25**

1. As Jesus spoke about a *lamp*, what did He remind them that we **do not** do with a *lamp*?
  - a. Why don't you put your *lamps* under a *basket* or a *bed*?
  
  - b. What do we do with a *lamp*?
    - 1.) Why?
  
2. What lesson did Jesus draw from this example? verse 22
  - a. What does Psalm 119:105 reveal about the word of God?
    - 1.) In what ways have you discovered the word of God to be a *light*?
  
  - b. Record the truth exposed in 1 Corinthians 4:5.
    - 1.) What do you think God wants us to learn from this verse?

3. In Mark 4:24, Jesus again warns us to *hear*. Why did Jesus warn us to *take heed* (consider carefully) what we *hear*? verses 24,25
  - a. Each person is responsible to use what light and truth he has. He is not to hide or misuse it. He is held accountable for what he has, for what God has given him. What does 2 Corinthians 5:10 promise?
    - 1.) Each believer will stand before God for the purpose of being rewarded for what we have done with what we have been given. How does this inspire you to *hear* with a heart of *good ground*?

**DAY FIVE: Read Mark 4:26-41**

1. In this section of Mark 4, Jesus gives examples of the *kingdom of God*. What is the first example given in verses 26-29?
  - a. What role did the man in the parable play?
  - b. Describe the growth process of the seed.
  - c. What do you think is the spiritual point of this parable?
2. The second parable mentioned in this section is recorded In Mark 4:30-32. To what does Jesus *liken the kingdom of God*?
  - a. Again, Jesus uses the example of a seed. Using verse 31, describe a *mustard seed*.
  - b. What does this parable teach us about what God can do with small things?
3. Mark closes chapter four with the account of the storm at sea. What did Jesus say to the disciples in verse 35?
  - a. What happened? verse 37
  - b. How did the disciples react? verse 38

- c. After Jesus calmed the sea, the disciples *feared exceedingly*. What question did they ask one another? verse 41
- 1.) In what way can you personally apply the lessons of this story when *storms* arise in your life?

### **DAY SIX: Review Mark 4**

1. How has the parable of the sower encouraged you:  
to sow God's Word  
  
to listen when God's Word is sown?
2. Which parable in this lesson would you like to learn more about? Why?
3. After studying the parables of Mark 4, how would you describe the *kingdom of God*?
4. How does it impact you that, as a believer, you have been given insights that others have not?

*For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness,  
who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the  
knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

*- 2 Corinthians 4:6*

## Chapter Four

**1**And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea.

**2**Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching: **3***"Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. **4**And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. **5**Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. **6**But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. **7**And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. **8**But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."* **9**And He said to them, *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

**10**But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable.

**11**And He said to them, *"To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, **12**so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them.'"* **13**And He said to them, *"Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? **14**The sower sows the word. **15**And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. **16**These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; **17**and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. **18**Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, **19**and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. **20**But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."* **21**Also He said to them, *"Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? **22**For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. **23**If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."* **24**Then 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. **25**For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."* **26**And He said, *"The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, **27**and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. **28**For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. **29**But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."* **30**Then He said, *"To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? **31**It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; **32**but*

*when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."* <sup>33</sup>And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it. <sup>34</sup>But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples. <sup>35</sup>On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, *"Let us cross over to the other side."* <sup>36</sup>Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. <sup>37</sup>And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. <sup>38</sup>But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup>Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, *"Peace, be still!"* And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup>But He said to them, *"Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"* <sup>41</sup>And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"