

# Mark 4 – 2 May 2021

## “Seeking Continually By Faith”

### Introduction

- \*Jesus has begun travelling thru Galilee in the north
- \*Preaching all should repent & prepare for the Kingdom
- \*Jesus didn't ultimately come...
  - to deliver new doctrine (although He did)
  - to deal with deceivers (although He did)
  - to destroy demons (although He did)
- ...He ultimately came...to die... and be the Deliverer
- \*All of Jesus words and deeds are to make way for them to believe that He is the Messiah, the Savior
- \*That's a life-changing thing to accept who Jesus is
- \*What does it take to receive the truth & actually have it change you?

Today, Mark 4 presents the parable of the Sower & the Seed as well as Jesus calming the storm

**So we'll see 3 ways that we should receive the truth of God that will create an eternal change within us**

# **1<sup>st</sup> Way to receive the Word of God is proactively: You must come & inquiry of the Word (Vs 1-20)**

Read Vs 1-2

1. Jesus created an amphitheater w/ Mts behind
2. Why teach in parables? By an analogous story, make a truth eternal and relevant to all

Read Vs 3-9

1. This's known as Parable of the Sower & the Seed
2. One type of seed falling to 4 types of ground
3. Each type of ground has a different reception
4. When story is done, Jesus simply dismissed them
5. The Word has just gone out, what do you do?

Read Vs 10-12

1. The small veil of telling the story in parable is all it takes to keep the unconverted away
2. But to the converted that inquire “unto YOU it is given to given to know the mysteries of...God”
3. Read Jer 29:13 – drive into it & you'll get it!

## Read Vs 13

1. There is a key to unlock all parables
2. Key is to know to apply it to spiritual things
  - a. A farmer could misapply this to thinking he should cast his seed more carefully
  - b. Politicians could misapply this to thinking he should start a farmer education program
  - c. Salesmen could misapply this to thinking they can make a buck selling fertilizer
3. There is always a consistency of the spiritual imagery that the parables apply to

## Read Vs 14-20

1. We have 4 different states of the human heart
2. People always ask the irrelevant question, “Which of these 4 conditions are going to heaven?”
  - a. Wrong question. The spiritual is only relevant as it’s applied to a person
  - b. Should be asking, “Which 1 of these heart conditions do I have?”

### 3. 4 Heart Conditions

- a. Vs 15-Clearly the heart of the wayside isn't received and this person is under condemnation
- b. Vs 20-Clearly the heart of the good ground is proving their reception of the Word by fruit
- c. Vs 16-The stony heart is limited b/c of bad things or persecutions
- d. Vs 18-19-The thorny heart is limited b/c of good things or pleasures

- 4. Both good & bad circumstances in life can tear us away from receiving what God has for our lives
  - a. Don't let that be you
  - b. Live w/ confidence by bring forth fruit

*Let's speak in general about how Jesus' is teaching*

- 1. He's saying that the Word is always available, but *we have to come and take it*
  - a. Read Psm 19:1-4a
  - b. Prov 8 begins, "Doth not wisdom cry..."
  - c. James said, "We have not, b/c we ask not".

2. I can think of many subjects that my heart received in all 4 ways
  - a. Man tried selling me vacuum – Fell on wayside
  - b. I tried parking car at church – Fell on stony
  - c. I wanted to play tennis – Fell among thorns
  - d. Wanted to learn computers – Fell on good
3. None of these subjects compare to, “how will you receive the eternal message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which has the power to bring u life!”

**2<sup>nd</sup> Way to receive the Word of God is continually:  
No end to what you can learn of the Word (Vs 21-34)**

Read Vs 21-23

1. Jesus has come to shed light on God's truth
2. The very purpose of the Word is to shine into everyone's heart, giving the chance to come & ask
3. Continue to shine the light of the Word & it will complete its perfect work.

Read Vs 24-25

1. Take heed what (and how) you hear b/c there's a multiplying effect
  - a. Those that drive in, receive even more
  - b. Those that are passive, lose what they have
2. As you begin to think spiritually, the whole Bible begins to open up to you in a fresh way

Read Vs 26-29

1. Kingdom of God is like the harvest cycle
2. It's *the Word* that does the work, not the man

## Read Vs 30-32

1. The Word of God has produced the Kingdom
2. The Kingdom is like a mustard seed
  - a. Grows big – God’s Word has the power to expand farther than you may think
  - b. Grows even abnormally big b/c the devils are lodging in it

## Read Vs 33-34

1. He gives more light to those open to receive it
2. Ask for more understanding & you’ll receive it
3. Your growth will come little by little
  - a. As God brought Israel into the Promised Land, He told them that they would conquer a little at a time (Read Exo 23:29-30)
  - b. There’s an endless supply of what we can learn from God and His Word
    - i. John ended his gospel with a note about the vastness of God’s truth (Read John 21:25)
    - ii. More I know, more I realize I don’t know yet

# **3<sup>rd</sup> Way to receive the Word of God is faithfully: You must believe the Word (Vs 35-41)**

Read Vs 35-41

1. Did they have reason to fear?
  - a. Vs 37 – There was a great storm
  - b. Jesus was asleep: 2 ways to take this
    - i. He's calm, I should be calm, or...
    - ii. He's not available in my trouble
2. 3 ways this could have played out
  - i. They could let their fear lead to drowning
  - ii. They could go to Jesus to get a Word
    1. That's what they did
    2. But this isn't the best answer
  - iii. They could go w/ the Word they already received from Jesus. **THIS IS THE BEST**
3. Jesus already said, "Let us pass...to other side"
  - a. Jesus doesn't lie (Num 23:19)
  - b. Jesus doesn't exaggerate (Luk 24:25-26)
  - c. We can have faith in exactly what He says



4. The blessing of God's Word comes from belief
  - a. Read John 17:20-21a – blessing of unity
  - b. Read Heb 4:2-3a – blessing of rest & peace
  - c. The Word of God has the very power to raise you from the dead when that day comes
    - i. Read Rom 1:16-17
    - ii. But it's only for those that believe it!

## Conclusion

So what do you do when you hear a preacher, or co-worker or website speaking the Words of God? What is required of us to actually take it into our souls?

- 1. Be proactive: Inquire into it w/ questions**
  - a. The truth is ready & available to all, but you have to come and take it
  - b. The fish in the stream are available to all, but you have to come & take them
- 2. Do it continually: There's no end to its depths**
  - a. We're limited & can only learn so much at a time, but as you accept it, God gives you more
  - b. There's no end to learning of the eternal God
- 3. Do it believing: Your faith is victory**
  - a. There's unity & rest in believing what He's already said to us
  - b. Read Heb 11:6 – w/o faith, impossible to plz..
  - c. Read Matt 7:7-8 – Ask continually, seek continually, knock continually