

## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

#### The Growing Kingdom

With Jeremy Vasic & Anthony Capy  
Next Generation Service  
March 3, 2019



#### What holds the attention of our hearts?

Mark 4:1-2 Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore. <sup>2</sup> He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

Mark 4:3-9 "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. <sup>4</sup> As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. <sup>8</sup> Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" <sup>9</sup> Then he said, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

Mark 4:10-12 Later, when Jesus was alone with the twelve disciples and with the others who were gathered around, they asked him what the parables meant. <sup>11</sup> He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secret of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables for everything I say to outsiders, <sup>12</sup> so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: When they see what I do, they will learn nothing. When they hear what I say, they will not understand. Otherwise, they will turn to me and be forgiven."

- **Jesus is looking for hearts that are willing and responsive.**

Mark 4:13-20 Then Jesus said to them, "If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables? <sup>14</sup> The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others. <sup>15</sup> The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. <sup>16</sup> The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. <sup>18</sup> The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, <sup>19</sup> but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. <sup>20</sup> And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

- **Our hearts are contaminated by the lies of the enemy.**
- **Our hearts are contaminated by our sinful nature.**
- **Our hearts are contaminated by the world.**

**Big Idea: Experience a fruitful life by allowing Jesus to purify the contamination of your heart.**

#### What is contaminating your heart?

- **Jesus has the power to accomplish infinitely more than we might expect.**

Ephesians 3:14-21

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).*



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**The Growing Kingdom  
#7 of 21 — March 3, 2019**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you? What was your most significant takeaway?

3) Read Mark 4:1-9. What kind of soil do you most identify with today? What has had the attention of your heart lately?

4) Read Mark 10-12. What do you think about Jesus' approach in explaining his parables to the few? If Jesus is focused on the willingness and responsiveness of the hearts of his followers, do you think you would be one of the 'few' who Jesus explains his parables to?

5) Read Mark 4:13-19. In what ways are you experiencing contamination of your heart? How can the Good News of Jesus help you to purify the contamination we experience?

6) Read Mark 4:20. How has Jesus accomplished more than you might have expected? Do you believe in the promised 'harvest' that Jesus can produce in our lives? Reflect on the promises found in Eph. 3:14-21.

7) Read Psalm 71:18-19. In light of seeing our next generation lead at Sequoia, in what ways can we as individuals, and as an Impact Community, 'proclaim God's power to this new generation'?



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