

## Life Group Questions - Mark 4

### UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

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1. *Main Idea of the Passage:* Revelation, Receptivity, Radical Growth
2. *How the main idea is developed:* Jesus teaches that God sovereignly discloses himself to those who are receptive AND he conceals himself from those who are hard-hearted. There is no neutral. One is either lavished with the truth of God or starved of the truth of God based on sovereign revelation and human receptivity.
3. *Key phrase:* He who has ears to hear, let him hear (v. 9, 23)
4. *Melodic Line:* Repent and Believe in the Good News that Jesus is the Suffering Servant King, the Glorious Savior.

### Outline

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1. Lecture (vv. 1-34)
  - A. The sower and the soils (vv. 1-20)
  - B. 3 more parables of revelation and radical growth (vv. 21-34)
2. Lab (vv. 35-41)
3. Revelation and Receptivity are both totally passive and totally active

### Gospel Centrality

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1. Jesus reveals himself.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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### Warming Up

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1. What has been your understanding of a parable to this point? In light of this passage has your understanding of a parable changed? Why or why not?

### Letting the Text Shape our Framework

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1. Lecture (vv. 1-34)
  - A. The sower and the soils (vv. 1-20)
    - i. There are three characters in this parable. Who are they?
    - ii. What are the differences between the soils?
      - a. What are they implications of seed sown on the:
        1. pathway (v. 15)?
        2. rocky soil (vv. 16-17)?
        3. thorny soil (vv. 18-19)?
        4. good soil (v. 20)?
      - b. How does suffering and success reveal the type of soil one is?
      - c. Why should those of the good soil be prepared your seeds to go rejected or to be superficially received?
  - B. 3 more parables of revelation and radical growth (vv. 21-34)

- i. Lamp under a basket (vv. 21-25)
    - a. Who are the characters in this parable?
    - b. If God wants to reveal himself how does this parable speak to our desire to seek or not to seek him?
  - ii. The surprising growth of the kingdom (vv. 26-29)
    - a. Who is the farmer in this parable? What does the harvest represent?
    - b. Why is this parable encouraging?
  - iii. The mustard seed (vv. 30-34)
    - a. How does this parable speak into sowing the gospel?
    - b. What are some stories from your life where it seems like nothing at first but then there is an abundance of fruit?
2. Lab (vv. 35-41)
- A. What does this say about who Jesus is (e.g. *who is this man*)?
  - B. How is creation a representative of “hearing God’s words”?
  - C. Although the disciples are soil #4, what does this say about the human heart? Growth? How can you relate to the disciples’ fear?

### Traveling Through the Cross

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1. How do we put our full trust in the One whom the wind and waves obey?

### Applying This Passage to our Lives

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1. Becoming more receptive
  - A. How do we move from wanting to want Jesus to simply wanting Jesus?
    - i. Do you read the Word and mediate upon it daily?
    - ii. What does Saturday night look like? OR, is Sunday an after-thought?
    - iii. Do you pray the Word into yourself?
2. Be sowers of the gospel seed
  - A. Do not add or take away from the simplicity and beauty of the gospel. Sow the seed and let God do the growing.
  - B. Even though the ROI seems to be discouraging, take heart, because God promises an abundant harvest in the end.
3. Pray that we who have ears to hear would hear.