

## Powerful Parables of Jesus

### Mark 4

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16*

**What is a parable?** Webster’s dictionary states, a parable is *“a usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle.”* **Are Jesus’ parables broader than what the dictionary defines?** If so, how?

### Interesting Facts about the Parables of Jesus...

- Parables make up one-third of what Jesus says
- All of Jesus’ parables are found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke
- Mark contains the fewest; Luke the greatest
- There are 30-40 parables attributed to Jesus
- There are parables in the Old Testament

### Why Did Jesus Use Parables?

- They were an essential part of His life
- Jesus wanted to introduce His hearers to the way He sees the world
- They impressed people the way they heard
- They are a feature of Jesus as a Teacher
- They stick with you – they are easy to remember

### What is the Purpose of a Parable?

- Teaching – Mark 4:1-2
- Fulfill prophecy – Mark 4:12; Isaiah 6:9-10
- Clarification – Mark 4:33-34

### Takeaways...

- Focuses on the nature of God and His kingdom
- Highlights the behavior of those who are indeed God’s people
- Describes the activity and/or destiny of the unrighteous

### The Main Aim...

Parables describe the activity of God in Jesus, more particularly so that men *[people]* may trust in it *[the activity of God]* and become disciples, or else be offended at it.”