

## Unrecognizable Session 6 – How Discipleship Works

### I. Introduction Review

A. **1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)** – *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light*

### B. Recent Weeks

1. Understanding the Distinct Life
2. Living the Distinct Life
3. Discipleship – The Key to Makeover
4. The Discipleship Makeover Process
5. The Making of Disciples

### II. Marks of True Disciples

A. **Disciples are Followers (Choice to Follow)**

B. **Disciples are Learners (Students)**

C. **Disciples are Imitators – (Follow = Imitate = follow as a model = copy)**

**Eph 5:1 (ESV)** – *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children*

**1 Cor 11:1 (ESV)** – *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ*

- **Discipleship is a process of following, learning and imitating**

### III. How Discipleship Works

A. **The Significance of Mark Chapter Four**

1. Mark 4 reveals certain laws that govern How God’s kingdom operates
2. This chapter explains the growth process that should follow the new birth
3. An understanding of the principles taught in this chapter will insure FRUITFULNESS in the life of the believer

4. A failure to understand the principles revealed in this chapter will result in a lack of fruit.

## **B. The Significance of The Parable of the Sower/Seed/Soil**

**Mark 4:1-13 (KJV) – 4** *And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.*

<sup>2</sup> *And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,*

<sup>3</sup> *Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:*

<sup>4</sup> *And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.*

<sup>5</sup> *And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:*

<sup>6</sup> *But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.*

<sup>7</sup> *And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.*

<sup>8</sup> *And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.*

<sup>9</sup> *And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

<sup>10</sup> *And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.*

<sup>11</sup> *And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:*

<sup>12</sup> *That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.*

***13** And he said unto them, **Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?***

**Mark 4:13 (NIV)** – *Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?"*

**Mark 4:13 (NLT)** – *Then Jesus said to them, "If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?"*

1. Jesus declared – that if you do not understand the parable of the Sower/Seed/Soil – You will not understand the other parables – you will not understand anything I am teaching!
2. Everything in the kingdom – is contingent upon what I am revealing to you in this chapter.
3. This is not a witnessing parable – not evangelism
4. This is about believers growing in understanding of the Word/Promises of God – that will produce a harvest throughout their life.
5. This parable is about = “The scattering of the seed of the Word that you should be receiving on a regular basis”.
6. Discipleship begins with understanding how the kingdom works in Mark Chapter 4.
7. First Base = Salvation
8. 2<sup>nd</sup> Base = Mark Chapter 4

### C. The Meaning of The Parable of the Sower/Seed/ Soil

**Mark 4:14-20 (KJV)** – <sup>14</sup> *The sower soweth the word.*

<sup>15</sup> *And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.*

<sup>16</sup> *And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;*

<sup>17</sup> *And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.*

<sup>18</sup> *And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,*

<sup>19</sup> *And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.*

<sup>20</sup> *And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.*

1. The Sower is Sowing The Word =

- a. There can be no discipleship without the Word
- b. Discipleship begins with an emphasis on the Word
- c. Discipleship continues with a commitment to the Word
- d. God's way of doing things is revealed in His Word
- e. The laws of the Kingdom of God are revealed in the Word
- f. The Word of God is food for the Spirit
- g. The Word of God is our weapon = sword of the Spirit

- h. The Word of God is the foundation of faith
  - i. The Word and God/Jesus are inseparable
  - j. The SOWER = GOD = IS CONTINUALLY SOWING!
  - k. Pastors/Teachers = used of God to SOW the word
  - l. There is not a SEED SHORTAGE
  - m. The SEED is plentiful - = There should be no shortage of harvest
  - n. The SEED is never the issue with the harvest unless you are sowing wrong seed.
  - o. You have an abundance of seed = you can have an abundant harvest.
2. Considerations to be given to this parable
- a. The Sower never changes = God
  - b. The Seed never changes = Word
  - c. The Enemy never changes = Satan
  - d. The soil is the only thing that changes = The hearts of people  
SOIL CONDITIONS CAN CHANGE  
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SOIL!

***SINCE THE SOIL IS THE ONLY CHANGEABLE FACTOR INVOLVED IN THIS PARABLE = THE SOIL is the key to the potential harvest that the Word can release in your life.***

***Each type of ground continued longer in the Word of God than the type before it. That's why each type of soil was blessed a little more than the one before.***

***The good ground – CONTINUED – CONTINUED – CONTINUED – 30/60/100***

3. Satan Comes to Steal The Word/Seed –

**Mark 4:15 (KJV)** – <sup>15</sup>*And these are they by the wayside, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.*

- a. Satan steals the Word = Satan is after the Word of God
- b. Immediately = Satan must come to church

4. Wayside Soil/Hard Ground

- c. The best time for Satan to steal the Word is right at the point that the Word is being taught.
- d. WAYSIDE = HARD GROUND = The seed is being sown but there is no receptive heart
- e. Distracted – Half hearing – No concentration – wandering mind
  - Watch people
  - Looking around
  - Thinking about what they’re going to do after service
  - Where is your mind during the teaching of the Word?
- f. The remedy for HARD GROUND/WAYSIDE SOIL = A decision to hear – Choosing to hear – Refusing to allow a wandering mind

5. STONY GROUND

**Mark 4:16-17 (KJV)** – <sup>16</sup>*And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;*

<sup>17</sup>*And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.*

- a. These received the word immediately with gladness – vs the wayside that didn’t receive anything
- b. They were enthusiastic about it
- c. They were all wrapped up in the excitement of the Word of God
- d. Their receiving was connected to emotions/compared to a fad that will not last.
- e. Satan sent some form of persecution and affliction their way
- f. They were OFFENDED
- g. OFFENSE is the #1 reason why people get out of church
- h. Satan’s purpose for offense = to get you out of the Word of God !
- i. Offense Definition = *a mole hill that Satan magnifies into a mountain.*
- j. Most offenses that get people out of church are small/insignificant things = or SIDE ISSUES/Not the main thing
- k. Examples of Offended People
  - *Didn’t get the recognition they wanted = less than church*
  - *Didn’t go to church anywhere = marriage lost in 2 examples*
  - *Kids ended up out of church –*
  - *Offense goes to a lesser/weaker church – waiting on us to fail.*
- l. Offense is not a new tool of the enemy.
  - In John 6 – Jesus spoke of himself being bread from heaven
  - **John 6:60-61 (KJV)** – <sup>60</sup>Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? <sup>61</sup>When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?
  - **John 6:66-68 (KJV)** – <sup>66</sup>From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. <sup>67</sup>Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? <sup>68</sup>Then Simon Peter

*answered him, LORD, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.*

- m. These disciples allowed offense to MOVE THEM from JESUS – the living word of God because they didn't fully understand one sermon that he preached. – *They failed to keep the command – If you continue in my word then you are my disciples indeed.*
- n. REMEMBER Satan's Agenda
  - To get me away from the Word of God
  - To get me away from the PERSON God is using to feed me the Word of God
  - To get me away from the PLACE where the Word of God is being Taught
- o. The early church CONTINUED STEADFASTLY in the Word –
  - They were not moved by persecution
  - They were not moved by affliction
  - They were not moved by offense
  - They CONTINUED – THEY REAPED –
  - They were truly disciples indeed!