

Unrecognizable Session 7 – How Discipleship Works (Continued)

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
6. How Discipleship works

II. 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 ensure 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. Scriptures to take note of in Mark 4

1. **Mark 4:13 (KJV)** – *And he said unto them, **Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?***
2. **Mark 4:24-25 (KJV)** – ²⁴*And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. ²⁵For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.*

Mark 4:24-25 (NLT) –

²⁴ Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given^[a]—and you will receive even more.

²⁵ To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.

- a. The importance of giving attention to the Word
 - b. The closer you listen the more you will receive
 - c. The more you receive the more you qualify for more
 - d. Those who give little attention receive little or lose everything they have received.
3. **Mark 4:26-29 (KJV)** – *²⁶And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; ²⁷And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. ²⁸For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. ²⁹But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.*

Mark 4:26-29 (NLT) – *²⁶ Jesus also said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. ²⁸ The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. ²⁹ And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.”*

- a. The Kingdom works like this
- b. The Farmer/sower scatters seed
- c. The seed does what it is created to do

- d. We don't understand how this works/in the natural it makes no sense
 - e. The earth produces the crop – The word produces a crop
 - f. Whenever the seed is kept in the right soil/conditions – the harvest is sure –
4. **Mark 4:30-32 (NLT)** – ³⁰ *Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, ³² but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade.”*
- a. The kingdom works by sowing seed that seems insignificant
 - b. Mustard seed is so small it seems impossible that it would produce
 - c. The smallest seed produces something large enough for the birds to nest in it.
 - d. In the kingdom of God – it seems insignificant to spend time sowing the Word of God –
 - e. As impossible as it may seem, when the Word of God is sown into the right soil it will produce something massive.
 - f. Do not undervalue or lightly esteem coming to church to hear the Word of God!
5. **Mark 4:33-34 (KJV)** – ³³ *And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.*
³⁴ *But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.*
- a. As they were able to hear it – Not all were able to hear the same thing

- b. He expounded all things to his disciples – The disciples followed and heard at a different level – thus qualifying them to receive greater revelation.
- c. ALL of this goes back to the various types of soil which determines the level of harvest.

C. The Various Soils

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

¹⁵ *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.*

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

¹⁷ *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.*

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

¹⁹ *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.*

²⁰ *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
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

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 stony ground held the seed longer than the wayside soil*
- *The thorny ground held the seed longer than the stony soil*

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

= This was the early church – who held the seed – continuing steadfastly in the Apostles Doctrine.

- 2. **Mark 4:15 (KJV)** – *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

3. 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

4. STONY GROUND

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

¹⁷ *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)** – ⁶⁰*Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? ⁶¹When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?*
- **John 6:66-68 (KJV)** – ⁶⁶*From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. ⁶⁷Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? ⁶⁸Then 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

- SATAN is after your harvest!
- What is your harvest? *Salvation, health, blessing, peace, joy*
- 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 –

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- They were not moved by persecution although they had it
- They were not moved by affliction although they had it
- They were not moved by offense although they had opportunity for it.
- They CONTINUED – THEY REAPED –
- They were truly disciples indeed!