

Mark 4

Jesus' Parable of the Seed and the Sower (vs. 1-20)

Parables are stories out of ordinary life used to illustrate spiritual or moral truth.

Assuming most of Jesus' audience has ears that are capable of hearing, what do you think Jesus means in verse 9?

What is the "secret of the kingdom" that has been revealed to the Twelve and the others around Jesus? (see 1:15-16)

According to vs. 11-12, which is a reference to Isaiah 6, why does Jesus teach in parables?

In Jesus' explanation of the parable, he says the seed being scattered is the "word." What do you think that means? (see John 1:1-2, 14.)

What could the grain represent?

Which kind of soil describes you - honestly?

Jesus' Parable of the Lamp (vs. 21-25)

What is the purpose of setting a lamp on its stand? (see vs. 22)

The lamp that Jesus is talking about is an oil lamp with a flame. What do you think the lamp might represent in Jesus' parable? What would happen to the flame if you put it under a basket or a bed?

In vs. 24-25, what is "it" that will be measured to us according to the measure we use? What is "it" that will be given to us or taken from us?

More Parables about Seeds (vs. 26-34)

These 2 parables describe the kingdom of God (the intangible place where God's perfect will is always done).

What do you notice about this kingdom, according to the parables?

What does Isaiah 55:10-11 say about God's word?

From verse 33, do you get the sense that Jesus' parables were meant to confuse the people? What does Jesus do when he's alone with his disciples?

Read John 16:7, 13-15. Who helps you if you're confused about things Jesus says?

Jesus and the Storm (vs. 35-41)

What is Jesus doing while they cross the lake, and what does that tell you about him?

What does the disciples' question insinuate about Jesus?

What were the disciples afraid of before they woke Jesus up? Why were they terrified after he calmed the storm?

Is there a lesson here that you can apply to a situation in your own life?

Sermon Notes

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Title: _____ Passage: _____

What I needed to hear today: (something to remember, put into practice, change in my thinking, change in my behavior)