

The Gospel according to Mark

- ❑ It is an early gospel – around +/- AD 50
- ❑ It is a concise gospel – only 16 chapters
- ❑ It is a fast-paced gospel – “immediately”
- ❑ It is a vivid gospel – miracles and events
- ❑ It is an evangelistic gospel - “Go into all the world and preach the gospel”

Why Mark?

- ❑ Jesus the human
- ❑ Jesus the healer
- ❑ Jesus on the move
- ❑ Jesus the teacher, disciple maker

Lesson 4: 'What' are you?

Mark 4.1-20, NIV


also: Mathew 13, Luke 8

- * Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ² He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed.

* ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.


* ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

- * 9 Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”
- * 10 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. 11 He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you.

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- * But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that,
 - * ““they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,
and ever hearing but never understanding;
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!””

* ¹³ Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

* ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word;



* ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

Lesson 4 – ‘What’ are you?

* That is, what kind of ‘soil?’

* The 3 components:

1. Farmer

2. Seed

3. Four Soil types:

* 1.Path,

* 2.rocky places,

* 3.thorny,

* 4.good soil

But, what about . .

- * “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that,
- * ““they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,
and ever hearing but never understanding;
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!””

** Perhaps the best way to understand [v.12](#) is that it simply teaches that one reason Jesus taught in parables was to conceal the truth to persistent unbelievers.*

** Expositor's Bible Commentary, NT*

1. The Farmer

* And the farmer is . . .

* Jesus!

* Who else might it be? _____

* And what is the “seed?”

2.The 'Seed'

- * ¹⁴ *The farmer sows the word.*
- * The Word of God – the Bible!
- * Gotta have God's Word to be able to sow it!

3.The Soils

- * Soil #1: “the path”
- * *As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.*
- * Obvious but unstated result: no growth

Soil #2: “Rocky places”

- * ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.
- * “Receive it with **joy!**”
- * Problem: “no root”
- * Persecution comes – “quickly fall away”

Soil #3: “thorny”

- * ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.
- * Worries + Deceit + desires = choked
- * Result: unfruitful

Soil #4: “good”

- * ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”
- * Hear *the Word*
- * *Accept it*
- * *Produce!*

Jesus wants us to GROW!

- * Christian growth is measured 2 ways:
- * 1. personal growth: the fruit of the Spirit:
- * ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance [patience], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

Growth #2: reproduction

* The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
And he who wins souls is wise.

* Proverbs 11.30, NKJV

* Then He said to them, “Follow Me,
and I will make you fishers of men.”

Matthew 4.10, NKJV

What do I really want from God?

* “Have you made the purposes of his grace your *life purpose*? Do you want what He wants or are you simply too *easily satisfied*?”

* *New Morning Mercies*, by Dr. Paul David Tripp: devotional for September 21

Grow in grace – 2 Peter 3.18