

Mark 4:1-41

A. The Parable of the Sower (vv1-9).

1. Uses boat on water; large crowds and amplification.
2. Various responses to the sowing of the word of God. Sowing in the OT is a metaphor for God's work (Jer. 31:27-28, Ezek. 36:9, Hos. 2:21-23).
3. The sower sows liberally even in unfruitful ground in hope of a harvest (c.f. Mark 2:17). Jesus is the end time sower of God.

B. Explanation for Teaching in the Parables (vv. 10-12).

1. "Mystery of the kingdom;" heavenly truth that is concealed from human understanding but is made known by God.
2. The mystery is revealed to those who respond to Jesus by hearing and following God's word and will. The understanding comes by grace as Jesus unlocks the meaning for us.
3. Purpose of the Parables: Forgiveness of Sins—the Greatest Miracle.
4. Isaiah quotation: Context of Isaiah—people would not understand until Jerusalem was destroyed; Jesus' context: they will not understand until Jesus is dies on the cross and is resurrected; Jerusalem is destroyed

C. The Interpretation of the Parable of the Sower (vv.13-20).

1. Reception of the Word is directly related to the preexisting condition of the hearer's heart.
2. Path                      Rocky Ground                      Weed-ridden                      Good Soil
3. "Keep trying, keep trying...don't give up---never give up!"

D. The Parable of the Lamp (vv.21-23).

1. God's purpose is to manifest His truth to all—not hide it.

E. The Parable of the Measure (vv. 24-25).

1. The way people respond to the light;

F. The Parable of the Seeds Cast on the Earth (26-32).

1. God will accomplish his plan with and/or without our help. Focus is on what God is accomplishing.

G. Conclusion (33-34).

H. The Storm at Sea (35-41).

1. READ: Psalm 107:23-32; Isaiah 43:1-10