

The Power of the Seed of the Gospel (In Your Life), Mark 4:1-20



Intro: The joy of “bonus content”

I. Reasons to Push Beyond the Surface Interpretation of Mark 4:1-20

a. The quickest interpretation of this parable?

- A pie chart of who becomes diligent church goers

b. Why we should look deeper:

- Jesus’ explanation in the middle of the story, about parables

- The analogy of the Gospel as “a seed”

- The timing (in church history) of this teaching

c. What I think Jesus is proposing: The path (for you) towards incredible spiritual fruitfulness is letting the seed of the Gospel root, grow, and flourish in the midst of these challenges

II. What This Parable From Jesus Means For You!

a. The challenge of nurturing the Gospel throughout your hopes, thoughts, relationships, and actions in the midst of the doubt and scorn Satan challenges your faith with (Mark 4:15)

b. The challenge of nurturing the Gospel throughout your hopes, thoughts, relationships, and actions amidst the unchosen hardships of life (Mark 4:16-17)

c. The challenges of nurturing the Gospel throughout your hopes, thoughts, relationships, and actions as anxiety and desire for comfort build! (Mark 4:19)

d. The benefits and rewards! (Mark 4:20, Galatians 5:22-23a)

Conclusion and Summary Statement: The path (for you) towards incredible spiritual fruitfulness is letting the seed of the Gospel root, grow, and flourish in the midst of the challenges listed in this parable!

Small Group Discussion and Individual Study Questions

Mark 4:1-20



Icebreaker: What is the perfect number of plants to have in your house or apartment? What is the longest you have ever kept a plant alive? What tricks have you learned to caring for a houseplant, garden, or landscaping in the yard?

1. Read Mark 4:1-20. Retell Jesus' teaching here, in your own summary
2. This parable is told twice, with an explanation in the middle from Jesus, as to why he teaches in parables. Read and discuss Mark 4:9-12. Why does Jesus use parables, what might he be trying to accomplish through this style of communication?
3. What does it look like, to have Gospel hope and faith that perseveres through the attacks and doubts Satan brings (vs 15)?

Do you have advice, for others struggling with this?

4. What does it look like, to have Gospel hope and faith that lasts through persecution and hardships (vs 16-17)?

What has helped you, in this process?

5. What does it look like, to have Gospel hope and faith that lasts through bouts of anxiety and monetary desire (vs 18-19)?

These are very modern problems, that many in our church family struggle with. What are some ways we can see the Gospel grow rooted enough in our lives, to overcome these challenges?

6. Consider the sermon summary statement: "The path towards incredible spiritual fruitfulness is letting the seed of the Gospel root, grow, and flourish in the midst of the challenges listed in this parable.
7. Share a way that this has been true for you, that could encourage others