

**A Study of the Gospel of Mark**  
**Week 4: Mark 4 | Sept. 28/29, 2013**

**Responding to Jesus Part II:**  
**What will you do with the seed?**



Mark has told us that Jesus has been teaching (Mark 1:21, 27; 2:13), but here in chapter 4 is the first time that he gives us a lengthy report of that teaching. Jesus is teaching by parables, stories that illustrate in real life the principles of His Kingdom. There are several in this chapter and three of them have to do with “righteous seed.”

Do you have any experience with farming or gardening? Please explain.

**A Parable of Four Soils | Read Mark 4:1-20.**

List the four types of soil and the results of each:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

[Q] What is common to each of the first three seeds of the sower parable (4: 5–19)? What is the central point of the parable?

[Q] Which soil best describes your heart?

[Q] How does one become like the good soil?

**A Parable about Hiddenness | Read Mark 4:21-25.**

A secret or mystery in Scripture often refers *not* to something that cannot be explained or understood, but rather to something that can only be communicated by God. It is “not a mystery in the sense that it is incomprehensible, but it is a ‘secret’ in that not everyone yet knows it.”

David E. Garland, *Mark NIV Application Commentary*

[Q] The verb *to hear/listen* occurs 13 times in this section! (vv. 4:3, 9 [2x], 12 [2x], 15, 16, 18, 20, 23 [2x], 24, 33). What are some characteristics of someone who truly hears?

**Parables about the Kingdom | Read Mark 4:26-32.**

[Q] What do you learn about the Kingdom of God from the two parables in:

Mark 4:26-29

Mark 4:30-32 (See also Ezekiel 17:22-24.)

[Q] Read Mark 4:33-34. Why do you think Jesus explained the parables to the disciples but not the crowd? (See verses 11-12.)

**Apply**

[Q] How will you till your soil/heart this week? Be specific.

[Q] Who will you check in with next week on your progress?

**Extra:  
Calming the Storm  
Mark 4:35-41**

Read Job 12:15, 28:25, Psalm 33:7, and Psalm 107:23 – 30.

[Q] In light of these passages, what is the implication of Mark 4:39? How might this explain that the disciples seemed even more afraid of Jesus after the storm than they were of the storm itself?

[Q] If you were on that boat, what would be your response to Jesus?

**Pray**

---



---



---



---



---



---