IMMEDIATELY: The Gospel of Mark - Class #10

Mark 4:1-35

The Parable of the Sower

[1] Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. [2] And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: [3] “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. [4] And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. [5] Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. [6] And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. [7] Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. [8] And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” [9] And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Purpose of the Parables

[10] And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. [11] And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, [12] so that

> “‘they may indeed see but not perceive,
> and may indeed hear but not understand,
> lest they should turn and be forgiven.’”

Mark 4:1-35 cont.

[13] And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? [14] The sower sows the word. [15] And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. [16] And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. [17] And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. [18] And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, [19] but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. [20] But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

A Lamp Under a Basket

[21] And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? [22] For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. [23] If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” [24] And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. [25] For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

Why Parables?

- Principles of God’s kingdom revealed through the everyday activities.
- Simple. One clear point.
- Not unique to Jesus.
- Jesus’ message in Jesus’ time.
- Different Audiences
    - Hard-hearted: Parables are a warning.
    - Open-hearted: Education

Helpful Verses/Quotes:

- **Isaiah 6:9–10** [9] And he said, “Go, and say to this people:

“‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand;
keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’
[10] Make the heart of this people dull,
and their ears heavy,
and blind their eyes;
lest they see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears,
and understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed.”

- **Westminster Shorter Catechism**
  - ***Q90.*** *How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?*
  - **A.** That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.
- **Revelation 22:1** [1] Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

So What? *What is the good news today from Mark?*

- *God hears our prayers because of Jesus. Pray for a few names this week who don’t believe. Pray that the Holy Spirit would convict their hearts of the truth of the gospel?*

Scan for notes & resources.

https://wepcsundayschool.my.canva.site/2026-immediately-gospel-of-mark