

Study of the Gospel of Mark

Chapter 4

In the first three chapters Mark has emphasized the works of Jesus, and recorded very few of Jesus' teachings. We see a change in this chapter, as Mark now draws our attention to the teachings of Jesus. Keep in mind the increasingly fierce opposition that Jesus has faced from the Jewish leaders. This opposition led him to withdraw from the synagogues to the Sea of Galilee (3:7). As we see from this chapter, it also led him to speak to the people in parables.

1. Four parables are recorded by Mark in this chapter. What are they? Where are they recorded in other Gospels?

	Parable	Cross References
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____

2. In the parable of the Sower and the Seed Jesus speaks of the dangers that surround a Christian in this world of sin and which seek to rob us of our faith in Jesus. What three things pose a threat to the seed in the parable (4:3-8)? What do these threats represent in the life of a Christian(4:14-20)?

	Threat to Seed	Threat to Christian
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____

3. In this parable Jesus warns Christians against the dangers of the Devil, the world and our flesh. At the same time Jesus points out that it is the Word of God that does the work. This should be very comforting to us as Christians in our work of evangelism. Our only responsibility is to cast the seed of the Word. The Lord does the rest. What do the following verses teach us about our evangelism efforts?

Isaiah 55:10-11 - _____

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 - _____

4. What does the parable of the candle (4:21-22) teach us about Christian evangelism?

5. What is the point that Jesus is making in 4:25-26? What can we learn from this point?

6. The parable of the growing grain is only found in Mark's Gospel. Notice what Jesus says in verse 26: "The kingdom of God is like..." In all, about 30 different parables of Jesus are recorded in the Gospels. About 10 of them have to do with "the kingdom of God" or "the kingdom of heaven." What do we learn about the kingdom of God from this parable?

7. In verses 30-32 Jesus presents another "kingdom of God" parable, using the example of a mustard seed. What two things does Jesus say about the mustard seed?

- A. _____
- B. _____

How do we see this truth being fulfilled in the church? See Acts 1:8; Romans 10:18.

8. Jesus tells the reason for using parables in 4:10-12 and 4:33-34. What Old Testament passage does Jesus refer to in these verses?

What does Jesus mean when he speaks in this way? How did parables fit into that purpose?

9. What does the account of Jesus' calming of the storm teach us about trusting in our Savior?
