



Through Peter's Eyes 🔍

The Gospel of Mark

Parables and Power

Mark 4

A. Stories Jesus Told [Parables]

[4:33-34, 4:10-12]

Two Audiences

- [1] Parables - The Crowds
- [2] Analogies - The Disciples

B. Parables and Analogies of Jesus [4:2-32]

[1] Jesus presents the responsibilities we have as believers:

- [a] Parable of the Sower [4:2-8, 13-20]
- [b] Analogy of the Lamp . . . [4:21-23]
- [c] Analogy of the Measure [4:24-25]

[2] Jesus transitions to answering the question:
How will God's Kingdom come to Earth?

- [a] Parable of the Growing Seed [4:26-29]
- [b] Parable of the Mustard Seed [4:30-32]

C. The Power of Jesus [4:35-41]

Someone greater than Jonah is here!

Study Questions/Prayer

- [1] Read Mark 4:2-8, 13-20. How does the *Parable of the Sower* illustrate the different responses to the gospel message? Which type of soil do you identify with, and why?
- [2] Read Mark 4:21-23. What lessons can be drawn from the *Analogy of the Lamp* regarding the visibility and impact of one's faith?
- [3] Read Mark 4:26-32. What insights do the *Parable of the Growing Seed* and the *Parable of the Mustard Seed* provide about the nature and growth of God's Kingdom?
- [4] Read Mark 4:35-41. What does the disciples' reaction to Jesus calming the storm reveal about their understanding of Him?
- [5] Pray asking God for the wisdom to trust in His timing and power, knowing that even the smallest acts of faith can lead to great outcomes.

[Mark 4:33-34] With many such parables he spoke [Matthew 13:34] the word to them, [Mark 4:14] as they were able to hear it. [John 16:12, 1 Corinthians 3:2, Hebrews 5:12] ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything. . . .

[Mark 4:10-12] And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. [Mark 4:34] ¹¹ And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, [Matthew 19:11, Colossians 1:27, 1 Corinthians 2:6-1 Corinthians 2:10, 1 John 2:20, 1 John 2:27, Matthew 11:25] 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] Again he began to teach beside the sea. [also in Matthew 13:1-15, Luke 8:4 - 8:10] 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.

[Mark 4:2-8, 13-20] See Back for Outline of Text

[Mark 4:21-23] "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. [Matthew 10:26, Luke 12:2, 1 Timothy 5:25] ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." [Mark 4:9]

[Mark 4:24-25] 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. [Matthew 7:2, Luke 6:38] 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." [Matthew 13:12]

[Mark 4:26-29] "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. [Matthew 13:24-30] ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. [Ecclesiastes 11:5,6] ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." [Joel 3:13, Revelation 14:15]

[Mark 4:30-32] And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? [story also found in [Matthew 13:31,32 and Luke 13:18-19] ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, [Matthew 17:20, Luke 17:6] which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

[Mark 4:35-41] On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace be Still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ [The Rebuke of Jesus] He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹ [The Disciples Awe] And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Parable of the Sower [Mark 4:2-8]	What Did Jesus Say? [Mark [4:13-20]	Strauss [ECNT] [Application for Today]
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The same message of the gospel proclaimed by Jesus is proclaimed in the church today and their and people respond to it in various ways:</p>
<p>⁴ [Seed on the Path] And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it.</p>	<p>¹⁵ [Seed on the Path] 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.</p>	<p>For some it never gets through and is snatched away by Satan's lies - the view that prevails in their lives is that there is no God, or that personal pleasure, fame or wealth is the ultimate goal of life or that success comes through personal effort or self-reliance.</p>
<p>⁵ [Seed on the Rocky Ground] 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.</p>	<p>¹⁶ [Seed on the Rocky Ground] 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.</p>	<p>For some the message sounds good and is welcomed with joy, but it never goes beyond superficial level of faith. It is based on emotionalism or is inherited from family, but it has no roots of it sows. "For these church is a nice social club to meet and develop friendships. The essence of Christianity is being a good person and helping others . . . the idea of a radical commitment to the kingdom and its mission remains an alien concept.</p>
<p>⁷ [Seed among Thorns] Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.</p>	<p>¹⁸ [Seed among Thorns] 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.</p>	<p>Others hear the message and are even assimilated into the community of faith, but the distractions of the world - its worries and wealth - mean that faith never results in transformation.</p>
<p>⁸ [Seed in Good soil] 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."</p>	<p>¹⁵ [Seed on Good Soil] 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.</p>	<p>However, others respond to the message and persevere until they bear fruit. Bearing fruit could mean bringing others to Christ, but it is much broader than this. It is a life change that results in transformation until we share God's values for the world and develop the mind of Christ.</p>

**"THROUGH PETER'S EYES"
THE READING CHALLENGE [GOSPEL OF MARK]
Read Mark 4-5**

Answer the question below
What did you learn about Jesus in this chapter?