



The Gospel of Mark

JESUS

The King Who
Came to Die

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ² He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain.

⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times.” ⁹ Then Jesus said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” ¹⁰ When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that, “they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!””

¹³ Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?”

¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop — thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.” Mark 4:1–20



The Priority of This Parable

The Priority of the Parable of the Sower

- It is always listed first among the parables
- It is the only parable where Jesus' interpretation is given in Mark 4
- The parable, questions, and explanation are 50% of the chapter
- It is the parable that Jesus introduces and ends with the command to "HEAR"



The Command To HEAR

Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed...⁹ Then Jesus said, “He who has ears to **hear**, **let him hear**.”

Mark 4:3, 9



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- It is the only parable where Jesus' interpretation is given in Mark 4
- The parable, questions, and explanation are 50% of the chapter
- It is the parable which Jesus introduces and end with the command to "HEAR"
- Jesus indicates understanding this parable will help us understand the other parables



The Key To Understanding All Parables

Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?”

Mark 4:13





The Parable, Its Interpretation, and Application

“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times.” ⁹ Then Jesus said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Mark 4:3–9



Interpretation - The Secret/Mystery of the Kingdom

When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that, “they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!””

Mark 4:10–12



The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Mark 4:14–19



The Word Bears Fruit!

Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop — thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.

Mark 4:20



A crown of thorns, rendered in a golden-brown color, frames the text. The thorns are sharp and intertwined, creating a circular border around the central text. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white and light blue, suggesting a bright, possibly outdoor setting.

The Gospel of Mark

Applying

The Word

Don't Be Surprised!

A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!

Matthew 10:24–25



A crown of thorns, rendered in a golden-brown color, frames the central text. The thorns are sharp and intertwined, creating a circular border around the words. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white and light blue, suggesting a bright, possibly outdoor setting.

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Applying

The Word

The Table

