



The Sea of Galilee.

http://www.coptnet.com/newsite/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=146:the-parable-of-the-sower&catid=45:bible-discussion&Itemid=170

http://www.culture.gouv.fr/Wave/image/joconde/0369/m099404_3j01560_p.jpg

The Gospel of Mark

Jesus' Manhood, Motion, and Mission

Day 1 – Summarize chapter 4

Welcome

Welcome to this day, friend, and to this time of study! Let's pray: Abba Father, thank You for giving me another day to know You better. Holy Spirit, please open up my mind so that I may understand what I'm reading today. Give me eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to obey. Thank You so much! Amen.

Read the Chapter

Read all of chapter 4 in one sitting. Try to summarize each event briefly; I stick with 10 words or less to help me keep to the main point. Write your text divisions on the left and your summaries in a sentence to the right. I'll get you started:

- 4:1-20 _____
- 4:21-25 _____
- 4:26-29 _____
- 4:30-34 _____
- 4:35-41 _____

Day 2 – Let the Parables Begin

What is a Parable?

A parable is a story with a central point or lesson. It is not to be overanalyzed! Read verses 1-9. What do you think the main purpose of this parable is? _____

_____ Skip ahead and read verses 33 and 34. Why do you think Jesus decided that parables were a good way to communicate spiritual lessons with a crowd? _____

Parable of the Sower: Read verses 1-9

List the four types of soil with a brief description of each:

| Soil Type | Description |
|-----------|-------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Day 3 – Good Soil

Eyes to see, ears to hear

Not all of us “get” parables on the first go-around, including Jesus’ disciples. Jesus knows about this struggle: read vv. 10-13. Think of a time when something was there right before you, but you missed it. For example, I was meeting with a group of women outdoors last Friday, and there were 2 main sounds other than our voices: a bird chirping and the hammering of roofers. I was exhausted spiritually and physically, and I heard the roofers. My friend Nancy was glowing with God--really hearing--and she heard the bird, describing it in a prayer as a “clarion call to remember You.” I laughed out loud, realizing I was not hearing! And you? _____

Jesus explains: read vv. 14-20

| Soil Type | Jesus’ Explanation |
|-----------|--------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Let’s re-do our chart with Jesus’ explanations of the soils.

Day 3 – Good Soil

Describe your own life in terms of these 4 soils.

Which soil are you most like at this point in your life? _____

Describe how you are like this soil. _____

Do you need to make any changes in your life in order to become the fruitful good soil? What are they? Really think this through--don't glaze over this question.

Day 4 – Lamp & More

WHAT DO A ... Lamp and Reality TV have in common?

Read verses 21-25.

Do this image exercise. Pray for God to give you a holy imagination for this: Your life is a house. Picture yourself in the dark. Jesus is walking through your life, room by room, and when He comes into a room, He illuminates it with a warm brilliance. You are aware of being completely exposed, as well as overwhelmingly loved.

Jesus may be talking about you being the light of the world or about Himself, the Ultimate Light of the world, lighting up everything on this earth for God to see. In what ways would you live differently if your life was completely lit, public? Jesus reminds us that we are accountable for our lives. How does this impact your work ethic? Your relationships?

More for the ones who have the most anyway? (Verses 24 and 25.)

How can that be fair? Yet the Bible proves that it is from these verses below. Look them up and describe how these verses come together. Consider this when you are at your job: who gets more responsibility?

Luke 16:10

Luke 19:17

Day 5 – Seed

The Kingdom of God

Jesus uses parables often to describe the Kingdom of God. Frequently they use agricultural images, as His was an agrarian society. What do you learn about the Kingdom from verses 26-29?

Mustard Seed

Do you have any mustard seeds? Most of the time you can find them in the Spices section of the grocery store. I encourage you to buy some--they are maybe \$3 at the most?--and keep them somewhere you can see them frequently, to encourage your faith. Better yet, give some to a friend with this Scripture fastened to the lid!

Spend some time in prayer asking God to help your faith expand. Pick a few of the following verses as you pray:

Luke 17:5

Galatians 5:6

Hebrews 11:1 and 6

James 2:17

1 John 5:4

If you need a bit of inspiration; if you're wondering how other people expressed their faith, read through Hebrews 11, affectionately called the "Faith Hall of Fame."

Day 6 – Storm

How did He know?

Have you ever wondered how Jesus knew what He could do? I know it's a funny question, but it's something I've wondered. For example, when He was a boy in the synagogue hearing the Psalms read, did He ever think, "Oh, wow, they are talking about ME!" Well, here's one that's crucial for this passage: write Psalm 89:9 here:

Mega: Read verses 35-41

We see Jesus often in boats in the book of Mark. "A furious squall" is translated from the Greek "And arose gale fierce of wind...And the waves were thrown into the boat so as for already to be filling the boat." The transliteration for "gale" is the word "megale," where we get our "mega" prefix. It means "large, great, in the widest sense." Strong's concordance emphasizes the sense of "exceedingly" great. Think about your experience in a fierce, "mega"-storm. Now consider, how do you think it was possible that Jesus was sleeping?

Have you ever wondered if Jesus sees your struggle and fear (v.38), and He *seems* to be disengaged when you need Him?

FaceBook that!

Pretend that you were one of the apostles who was in the boat with Jesus when He calmed the storm. What would you write on FaceBook or in an email about what happened? Write it below: