

Mark 4:1-20

3 Understandings Of  
Spiritual Fruitfulness



# Background/Context

- Gospel of Mark, written (64-65 AD) by John Mark to Roman audience (show Jesus is the Savior of all people)
- This section; Jesus is teaching in Galilee, in and around the city of Capernaum on banks of Sea of Galilee
- Jesus still very popular; large crowds follow
- Jesus begins teaching by using "parables"; earthly stories with heavenly meanings (35% of Jesus' teaching was with parables)
- Jesus compares God's Word to a seed that is planted by a farmer in the soil; the success of the seed depends on the condition of the

# Spiritual Fruitfulness Is Related To The Communication Of God's Word

- (vv.1-3 & v.14) Jesus, Master Teacher, conveying spiritual truth to all who come (v.2 "His teaching" lit. "doctrine")
- Jesus shares Parable of the Sower (maybe Parable of the Soils?) He compares spiritual fruitfulness to farming (soul is like soil, God's Word is like a seed)
- No harvest can come unless the seed is distributed; never change Word, but diligent to distribute/communicate God's Word
- Jesus never compromises Word, but He uses a boat as a pulpit to get word to as many as possible



- Romans 10:17, "So then, faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of God."
- I Peter 1:23, "Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but



# Spiritual Fruitfulness Is Connected To The Spiritual Condition Of The Soul

- (vv.4-8 & vv. 15-20) Jesus shares, seed fell on different types of soil and then had different results
- The success of the seed depends upon the condition of the soil
- "wayside" - hardened pathways in fields; this person callous, hardened to things of spirit; susceptible to being deceived by Satan
- "stony ground" - person receives word joyfully, but doesn't develop system of support so as to "feed" spiritually; withers
- "thorny ground" - person preoccupied with things

- Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of



# Spiritual Fruitfulness Is Correlated To Its Intended Application

- (v.3a & vv.9-13) Jesus adds special commentary (vv.10-13); the successful condition of the soil hinges on preparation and the harvest in mind
- Person who doesn't listen or care about God's word, won't benefit from it, but person who embraces it and applies it, great benefit and blessing
- Boiling water; hard boils an egg, but makes carrot soft
- What we do with God's word, very important: Listen!, Behold, ears to hear



- James 1:22, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
- Psalm 19:11, “Moreover by them (God’s word and commands) Your servant is

