

## Blessed Are Those Who Hear | Mark 4 | 10.21.18

Mark explains that Jesus taught in parables for two reasons.

1. To give greater insight to those who sought truth
2. To give greater confusion to those who did not seek truth

**Mark 4:11-12** *He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, <sup>12</sup> so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.'* "

- Biblical hearing has to do as much with our hearts as it does with our ears.
- Biblical Christianity is not mystical, but it is supernatural.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

**Colossians 2:3** *In (Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

The purpose and meaning of life in Christ is not hidden "from" us but hidden "for" us.

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| 1. Man willfully ignores God.        | <b>Romans 1:21a</b>    |
| 2. Man cleverly reasons against God. | <b>Romans 1:21b-22</b> |
| 3. Man totally replaces God.         | <b>Romans 1:23</b>     |
| 4. God actively abandons man.        | <b>Romans 1:24-32</b>  |

**Romans 1:21-25** *because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their (1) foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> (2) Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>25</sup> (3) who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

1. They resisted truth.
2. They redefined truth.
3. They redirected worship

**Psalm 81:11-12** *"But My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would have none of Me. <sup>12</sup> So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, To walk in their own counsels.*

**Ezekiel 14:3,4, 7** *"Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity.*

**Ezekiel 14:14 (16, 18, 20)** *Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness," says the Lord GOD.*

**Matthew 13:16-17** *But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; <sup>17</sup> for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*

**Hebrews 4:2** *For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.*

**Mark 4:14-20** *The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup> And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. <sup>16</sup> These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; <sup>17</sup> and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. <sup>18</sup> Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, <sup>19</sup> and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. <sup>20</sup> But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."*

**Mark 4:37-38** *And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. <sup>38</sup> But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"*

**Mark 4:41** *And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"*

### **Divine sovereignty and human responsibility go together in fulfilling the Great Commission.**

- The win for the believer is to share the gospel; God gives the results and the rewards!

**1 Corinthians 3:6-8** *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. <sup>7</sup> So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, **but God who gives the increase.** <sup>8</sup> Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and **each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.***

1. **The church gathered.** (Sunday for worship and edification)
2. **The church scattered.** (Monday – Saturday planting spiritual seed)
3. Every week Grace Baptist Church sends out some 300 missionaries.
  - **Ask God to help** you be aware of those whom you can share the gospel.
  - **Ask God to give** you wisdom and boldness to share the gospel.

**"The power that is in the Gospel** does not lie within men; otherwise men would be the converters of souls. We might preach until our tongues rotted, till we would exhaust our lungs and die, but never a soul be converted unless the Holy Spirit be with the Word of God to give it the power to convert the soul." Adapted from C.H. Spurgeon

### **THE ABC's of the Gospel:**

- **Admit** your sin. **Romans 3:23** *all have sinned and come short of the gospel*
- **Believe** the gospel. **Mark 1:14** *Jesus said, the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the gospel.*
- **Confess** Christ as Lord and Savior. **Romans 10:9** *if you confess with you mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead you will be saved.*