

“As They Were Able To Hear”

Jesus Used Parables For A Purpose In His Teaching

Mark 4:1-34 (839)

When did you last hear Christian teaching outside? Today Jesus teaches the crowds “beside the sea” (v 1) in the form of a simple story packed with symbolism. Imagine a farmer winding back and forth across his field, casting far and wide thousands and millions of seeds. Because they are *seeds* and not rocks or chaff, each and every seed in that field has incredible potential. Yet conditions must be right, or that seed’s growth will be impaired or stopped altogether. Today we consider 1) the character of the Word, 2) the hearts into which it is received, and 3) the psychological “fruit” that comes from such interesting encounters. Got questions? Seek further explanation!

I. Why did Jesus employ the _____ and the _____ analogy? (v 1-9)

1. There is a _____ of “the _____” that is similar to _____.
2. The seed grows _____ in diverse _____.

II. What do we learn how about the _____ of _____? (v 10-19)

1. Does the _____ of God’s Word draw you in to _____ study?
2. Consider carefully, what is the _____ of the _____ of God?
3. Because of the questions, Jesus now _____ the parable in _____.

III. What do you _____ with the teaching that you _____? (v 20-29)

1. For people to be fruitful they must _____ the Word, _____ it, bear _____.
2. Evaluate your life _____: what _____ do you use for others?
3. Are you in the _____ (beginner), the _____ (intermediate), or the _____ stage?

IV. How should we then _____? (v 30-34)

1. Back to _____! In God’s kingdom small _____ produce big _____!
2. We ought to _____ the _____ to one another!
3. We ought to evaluate our own and others _____ to _____ the Word!
4. We ought to seek out _____ men and ask them _____!